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45p

Botham passes fitness check

BY ALAN DE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

IAN Botham, who after most single-handedly won the last match against the West Indies, has passed a fitness check and is fit to play in the opening game of the cricket series.

Botham's position at the top of the list of players to play in the first Test is a surprise, but it is the result of a long and arduous process. The 34-year-old batsman has been out of the game since a serious knee injury in the 1987 Test against the West Indies.

Botham's return to the game is a relief for the England selectors, who have been looking for a replacement for the injured batsman. He is expected to play in the first Test against the West Indies in London.

Botham's fitness check was conducted by a team of doctors and physiotherapists. He is expected to be fit to play in the first Test against the West Indies in London.

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Police make three arrests in dawn swoop on homes of disgraced tycoon's family



The arm of the law: Kevin Maxwell being escorted from Snow Hill police station before being taken to City of London magistrates court yesterday

Maxwell brothers bailed on £140m fraud charges

BY ANGELA MACKAY
AND PETER VICTOR

KEVIN Maxwell, who inherited one of the world's largest publishing empires after his father died last November, yesterday faced a series of eight theft and fraud charges totalling £140 million.

His brother Ian was also charged with conspiracy to defraud. Their appearance with Larry Trachtenberg, their American financial adviser, before City of London magistrates finally brought to court one of the most extraordinary corporate sagas of the past few years.

Mr Trachtenberg, a former director of Bishopsgate Investment Management, which managed part of the Maxwell pension funds, was accused of six charges of theft and conspiracy to defraud.

Kevin Maxwell, 33, and Ian Maxwell, 36, were told by the court to relinquish their passports and they were granted bail on sureties of £500,000 and £250,000 respectively. Mr Trachtenberg, 39, was granted bail of £300,000, but he was not freed until 7pm. All three must reappear in court on



Ian Maxwell: evening visit to his brother

September 1. Their appearance to face charges brought by the Serious Fraud Office followed a dawn swoop on their homes. They were taken to Snow Hill police station in the City of London.

After the court hearing, Kevin Maxwell said he would contest all the charges against him. "After seven months of trial by rumour, of trial by innuendo, of trial by selective press leaks, and of prejudicial media reporting, I am really looking forward to being able to defend myself in a court of law where I intend to vigorously and strenuously contest all and any charges against me," he said.

Asked whether he had any

message for Mirror Group pensioners he turned on his heel and left in a taxi with his legal advisers. Minutes earlier Ian Maxwell had left the court without commenting to waiting reporters.

A spokeswoman for the SFO said after the hearing that more charges will follow concerning pension funds and other matters. So far, the SFO team has spent seven months bringing the first tranche of charges which the investigators hope to transfer to a crown court early next year.

Last night Ian Maxwell visited his brother's home, which he left at 7.15pm, smiling and holding hands with his wife, Laura. He refused to comment as they were driven away in a black Peugeot 205 GTI by a young woman.

The charges are the first to be brought since Robert Maxwell drowned off the coast of Tenerife in November last year. Soon after, more than £450 million of pension funds were found to be missing from group funds, triggering several enquiries by liquidators, administrators and the SFO.

The charges related to three of the five areas under investigation by the SFO: a £55 million loan from Swiss

Bank Corp to Adviser 188 Ltd, a company owned by Headington Investments, one of the main private Maxwell companies; the management of the Mirror Group pension funds; and the affairs of Maxwell Communications Corporation.

Kevin Maxwell and Mr Trachtenberg are accused of conspiring to defraud Swiss Bank of £55.7 million by dishonestly being party to the sale of securities belonging to a Maxwell subsidiary. They were charged under section 1 of the Theft Act 1968 with theft of securities worth £7 million and £12.4 million managed by Lloyds Investment Management on behalf of the Mirror Group pension trustees. They allegedly stole another portfolio of Mirror Group pension assets managed by Invesco MIM worth £12.3 million, along with a portfolio belonging to AGB pensioners worth £5 million.

Kevin Maxwell was also accused on another charge of stealing Mirror Group pension assets in the form of listed company shares worth £6.9 million, which were managed by Thornton Investment Management. He was also charged with the theft of one million shares in Berlitz International, the language education group, from Macmillan Inc. MCC's biggest asset in America.

Most of the stolen shares were allegedly used as security for loans made to private Maxwell companies after the complex web of private companies exhausted their own supplies of cash. Some of the funds were allegedly sold to pay back debt or were later sold by the banks after they were not repaid. It is believed the pension funds started to be appropriated in October 1989.

As officers arrested the Maxwell brothers early yesterday, they also began searching Kevin Maxwell's office at Wardrobe Place, Ludgate Hill, in the City. A pair of officers stopped people from entering the courtyard in which the four-storey office is situated. Officers emerged later with bags of documents and the processor units from the office computers. Two plain-clothes officers had remained at Kevin Maxwell's house after he was driven away. They left at 8.20am carrying bags filled with documents.

Right of silence, page 4
Collapse of empire, page 5
Young lions, page 14
Little hope, page 19

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A rude awakening for poor Pandora

BY PETER VICTOR

PLAINLY Pandora Maxwell was tired of early-morning visits from the media. She could be forgiven for her outburst at the suited pair who rang her doorbell yesterday before 7am. Her reaction was immortalised on television. "Piss off, we don't get up for another hour," she shouted, slamming down the window at her London home.

They persisted and she yelled: "I'm about to call the police." One of the callers replied: "We are the police, madam. Would you please open the door?" She did, still wearing her dressing gown.

The journalists Mrs Maxwell found so irritating were waiting outside the £1.4 million four-storey home in Jubilee Place, off King's Road, in Chelsea, as six police officers arrived to arrest Kevin, her husband and the former chairman of Maxwell Communication Corporation. He left home just before 7am with a wry smile on his face



and his eyes still puffy from sleep. He stepped out of the house in a sober suit, dark blue shirt and dark blue patterned tie, flanked by two officers who escorted him to the waiting police Sierra.

His only comment to reporters as he was helped into the car was a polite "good morning". Mrs Maxwell's demeanour, meanwhile, did not appear to improve. At 9am she put three of her four children in a dark blue Peugeot, driven by a man who described himself as a relative, and took them to

Continued on page 18, col 1

Unemployed total rises

There were bitter exchanges in the Commons at question time over the latest unemployment figures, which showed a rise of 21,300 last month.

The prime minister said that the rise, which pushes unemployment to more than 2.7 million for the first time in five years, was very unwelcome but pointed out that the rate of increase was slowing, suggesting that Britain was on the road to recovery. Page 6

Lloyd's poised for litigation

Lloyd's of London is bracing itself for a wave of litigation after refusing to bail out stricken names with an emergency rescue package. Brokers and underwriters are being asked to contribute to a new fund which will provide an income for names facing ruin. Lloyd's plan to cap members' losses at a maximum of £2.4 million. Page 19

Squatters die

Members of the Inkatha Freedom party were blamed for violence in which about 200 men armed with guns and axes killed at least 34 people, including women and children, in a night rampage through a black South African squatter camp near Johannesburg, according to 11 people who were wounded. Page 11

Test struggle

Waqar Younis took five England wickets for 91 as Pakistan dismissed England for 255 on the first day of the second Test. Only Gooch, with 69 and Stewart with 74 put up any real resistance. Pages 30, 32

Births, marriages, deaths	16
Crossword	18
Letters	15
Obituaries	17
Parliament	6, 7
Sport	29-32
Weather	18

Age	2, 3
Health	4
Motoring	7
Use of the Crossword	9
Law Report	8
TV & radio	10



1X

Gould attacks 'inquest diversion'

BY PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR'S behaviour in the past few days suggested that it was in grave danger of sleep-walking into further defeat, Bryan Gould said last night.

Mr Gould, who is vying with John Smith for the party leadership, said that recent events confirmed voters in their judgment that they were right to reject Labour on April 9. He said that the argument about the campaign was a

massive diversion. Mr Gould was speaking in Leeds after Labour's ruling national executive had held a restrained four and a half hour inquest into the party's fourth election defeat.

Trying to bury the bitterness of recent days, members agreed that the election campaign could not be blamed for a defeat at the heart of which lay a public lack of trust in Labour. There was

agreement with the view of Neil Kinnock, who stands down on July 18, that Labour has still failed to live down its past divisions. "Although we are only talking about a small section of the population, we are talking about a crucial section of the electorate who felt that as yet they could not trust us," Mr Kinnock said.

Voters' trust lost, page 7
Leading article, page 15

Guilty supporters face travel ban

FROM JOHN GOODBODY IN STOCKHOLM

ENGLAND fans convicted of football-related offences could be banned from travelling to matches abroad, MPs were told yesterday after the third consecutive night of rioting at the European Championships in Sweden.

Tony Newton, leader of the House, told the Commons during business questions: "We've reached an agreement with the Swedish

government whereby English supporters who are convicted of football-related offences in Sweden may be made the subject of restriction orders." Such orders would impose a ban on travelling abroad to football matches for a specified period, he said.

Last night 200 German fans rampaged through Gothenburg throwing fire

works and bottles at Dutch supporters. Reporters said dozens of white-helmeted riot police charged the Germans, who disappeared down side-streets after pelting them with stones. Some German used plant tubs to smash shop windows along the main boulevard.

Germans riot, page 2
Taylor's view, page 31

US and Russia to set up joint peace force

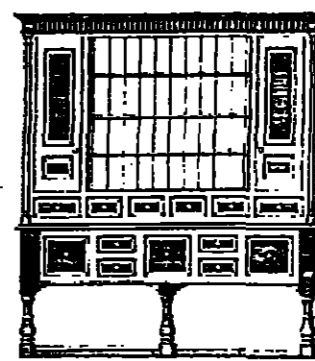
FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENTS Bush and Yeltsin signed an agreement at their Washington summit this week calling for the creation of what they refer to as a credible Euro-Atlantic peace-keeping force through which US and Russian soldiers can work together to control such ethnic conflicts as that in Yugoslavia.

The call was buried in the mass of accords which they signed on Wednesday night, but appears to go well beyond the existing concept of a Nato force able to operate outside alliance member states. The same document also calls on the Conference for Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) to appoint a special representative specifically to prevent ethnic strife.

America and Russia "cannot accept another phase of European instability", the Charter for American-Russian Partnership and Friend-

SMALLBONE of DEVIZES



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Germans take up hooligan mantle

FROM JOHN GOODBODY
IN STOCKHOLM

AS THE last England soccer followers began leaving Sweden yesterday, German fans continued the hooliganism that has marred the European Championship by rampaging through Gothenburg before their country's game against Holland last night.

Up to 200 of the estimated 15,000 German supporters attacked Dutch fans by throwing fireworks and bottles, and smashed car and shop windows. They pelted riot police with stones.

Police in Gothenburg said that five Swedes had been injured in the fighting and that buses and trams had been taken off the streets to prevent their windows being broken. Police adopted the same strategy as against the England fans by dividing the mob into smaller groups and moving in to arrest suspected ringleaders.

Four years ago, at the last European championship, the Germans sometimes began the fighting that led to nearly 800 people being arrested, including 394 English. At the 1990 World Cup, the Germans committed perhaps the most savage assaults of the competition during one outbreak in Milan and also fought the English before and after their semi-final in Turin.

After the fighting here on Wednesday night, which led to 32 English and 28 Swedes being arrested, police went to a campsite early yesterday holding about 300 supporters and individually screening them all before they left the city. They were compared with photographs and video pictures taken of the disturbances. Five more English were arrested.

Gosta Weland, deputy police commissioner of Stockholm, said that his officers were "not used to dealing with people like these English hooligans. Although my officers have been training for several months, it was a shock to meet them face to face."

"The Scottish have behaved extremely well and are very happy. It is strange that in one island, two groups of people can behave so differently."

However, Bo Nilsson, in charge of the officers in the street fighting in Stockholm, said: "The hooliganism was no worse than what occurs routinely in Stockholm, with youths walking through the city centre smashing windows and overturning concrete flower pots. The damage was no more than for a normal Friday or Saturday night."

Stuart Jones, page 31



Meeting his match: a handcuffed England fan is held by Swedish riot police in Stockholm after the fighting on Wednesday night

Bottomley endorses a new status for alternative medicine

BY ALISON ROBERTS

ALTERNATIVE medicine took a step closer to respectable medical status yesterday and may soon be regularly offered alongside orthodox treatments.

A new umbrella organisation, endorsed by Virginia Bottomley, the health secretary, and cautiously welcomed by the British Medical Association, was launched at the House of Commons with plans to register and accredit its 20,000 therapist members.

The new British Complementary Medicine Association (BCMA) wants to see alternative therapies integrated into conventional health care provision so that patients will be offered a choice between the two within one practice. Since April, GPs have been able to refer patients to alternative therapists for treatment on the NHS, provided that doctors remain clinically accountable. Family Health Services Authorities have agreed to reimburse 60 per cent of the therapists' fees, and fund health promotion clinics.

The BCMA sees this as an opportunity to build on public interest. It represents 40 branches of complementary medicine, from osteopathy and chiropractic to crystal healing, reflexology and hypnotherapy. Lord Ennals, the association's president, said each therapy was being encouraged to agree standards of education, training and practice.

A code of conduct for practitioners, drawn up by the organisation and backed by a disciplinary procedure, covers advertising, medical ethics and patient-doctor relations. It says that alternative therapists must not countermand prescriptions given by a doctor, nor are they qualified to give diagnoses.

Lord Ennals said: "There is now all-party support for the government's agreement to enable GPs to employ therapists who can offer NHS treatment. What we are talking about is not confrontation between the orthodox and alternative medicine practitioners; what we are talking about is co-operation."

Arthur Kennedy, president of the BMA, accepted the aims of the new organisation, but said GPs should remain firmly in charge of diagnosis. "I think a register is important as a means of excluding charlatans and quacks. It is very important to have people who have been generally trained first before practising these various disciplines."

The plans will cover only those who want to be registered and there is still no statutory regulation of alternative therapists. Professor James Payne, deputy chairman of the BMA's board of education and science, who led an inquiry into complementary medicine in Britain, remains sceptical.

He said: "I think they are being extremely optimistic if they think that many GPs are going to rush out and call on their local therapists. I think you have to be cautious about accepting this as a move forward. I am not convinced that it is a major advance." Professor Payne said that some branches of alternative medicine, in particular osteopathy, had organised training courses and colleges. Others, such as hypnotherapy, were still unregulated and patients should use practitioners with caution.

Alternative therapies became more popular every year. Last year an estimated 70,000 patients visited complementary medicine practitioners every week, 78 per cent for musculoskeletal disorders. One in three of the patients went to alternative therapists without seeing a medical doctor first.

Susan Horswood-Lee is a GP who makes full use of a list of therapists practising in west London. She invited each practitioner to see her before referring patients. About ten patients a week are sent to aromatherapists, masseurs, osteopaths and nutritional counsellors. "Patients would always much rather have natural therapies than drugs," she said.

Health, L&T section, page 4

Moves to lift GPs' 24-hour burden

BY JEREMY LAURANCE
HEALTH SERVICE
CORRESPONDENT

HEALTH department ministers are considering offering concessions to family doctors angry about the burden of providing 24-hour cover for their patients. Virginia Bottomley, the health secretary, is understood to be "not unsympathetic" to their plight while remaining opposed to radical change.

The concessions could include an easing of the restrictions on the use of deputising services for night calls, which would reverse the policy of the last ten years. Other possibilities include a survey of night calls to determine the extent of the burden and a campaign to discourage patients from making unnecessary demands at night.

GPs are expected to vote to opt out of providing round the clock cover at their annual conference next week. BMA leaders want responsibility for cover to be given to Family Health Service Authorities. However, such a move, as well as being unwelcome to the government, carries risks for the GPs whose status as self-employed independent contractors depends on their nominally providing a 24-hour service.

Requiring them to retain responsibility while easing the amount of out-of-hours work could provide a compromise, ministers believe. But this would be a change in the prevailing orthodoxy that patients are better looked after by their own doctor or one who knows them.

Leading article, page 15



Bottomley: sympathy with doctors' plight

Reynolds confident Irish will vote yes

BY EDWARD GORMAN
IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THE people of Ireland went to the polls yesterday to deliver a verdict on European union which could be instrumental in either resurrecting or killing off the Maastricht process after the defeat of the treaty in Denmark.

Albert Reynolds, the prime minister, who held talks with Anibal Cavaco Silva, the Portuguese prime minister, over lunch at government buildings in Dublin, said he was not expecting a victory for the no campaign.

"We are quite confident that the Irish people, with their innate commonsense, will have weighed up the pros and cons... and will see clearly that the balance of advantage lies with a yes vote," he said.

As expected, the turnout was low, particularly in the rural west, and was likely to be no more than 55 per cent. In the absence of exit polls, and with counting on a constituency basis not beginning until this morning, the first reliable indication of the result will not come before lunchtime today, with the final figures expected some time between 5pm and 7pm.

Recent opinion polls have shown a comfortable lead for the yes campaign. The leaders of the main opposition parties, which have come together on a joint platform with the government for the referendum, also predicted the treaty would be endorsed. They made last-minute attempts to win over the estimated 23 per cent of the 2½ million voters still undecided on the eve of polling, emphasising that fears over abortion should not be confused with the substantive political and economic issues at the heart of the treaty.

John Bruton, the leader of Fine Gael, said that a no vote would risk Ireland becoming isolated in Europe and again dependent on the British economy.

The opponents also kept up the pressure. Proinsias de Rossa, leader of Democratic Left, said the slide in the yes vote over recent weeks had not been halted and the no campaign would carry the day by a margin of 51 to 49.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Laura Davies has second operation

Laura Davies, the four-year-old from Eccles, Greater Manchester, who had a liver and bowel transplant in the United States eight days ago, underwent a second exploratory operation at the Children's Hospital in Pittsburgh yesterday (Ben MacIntyre reports from New York).

The hospital said that doctors had detected high levels of bilirubin, a waste product, in her bloodstream, an early indication of a liver malfunction. Doctors became concerned when Laura's skin began to turn yellow and she complained of nausea but they said the need for another operation was "a minor setback".

□ The Princess of Wales has given a "modest" personal contribution to the Laura Davies Appeal which is paying for the double transplant. It was disclosed yesterday. The donation was promised in a letter received by Laura's parents on May 29, the day before they left for Pittsburgh. Katie Doyle, North Western Regional Health Authority spokeswoman, said the princess's secretary Patrick Jephson wrote to say that Laura was in her thoughts.

Fire at nuclear plant

A fire broke out at the Hunterston B nuclear power station on the Ayrshire coast while maintenance work was being carried out on one of the reactor boilers yesterday. Scottish Nuclear said that nobody was injured and the fire was put out by its fire fighting staff. The fire started just after 6am when sparks from cutting equipment apparently ignited. Everyone was evacuated from the area and the pressure vessel containing the boiler was closed. The company said that the unit was not operating, having been shut down 11 weeks ago for routine maintenance. No nuclear material was involved and there was no offsite release of airborne radioactivity. Scottish CND said that although the reactor was shut down, it was believed that there was fuel inside and that the fire was 25ft from the core.

11 hurt in train crash

Eleven people were slightly hurt yesterday when a diesel locomotive reversed into the front of a passenger train. The accident happened behind Stepping Hill maternity hospital at Stockport, Cheshire. The injured, who were on the Manchester to Grimsby train, were released from Stockport infirmary after treatment for cuts and bruises. A British Rail spokesman said quick thinking by the two drivers helped avert a possible tragedy. The locomotive was travelling "at slow speed" towards the passenger train when the train driver saw it approaching. "He stopped the train and went into the carriages and ushered the passengers to the rear. The loco driver jumped clear just before the impact."

Sellafield water worry

Sellafield might not be a suitable site for the repository of nuclear waste because it has an upward flow of ground water which might bring water contaminated by the nuclear waste to the surface, says a report for Cumbria County Council by consultants from Environmental Resources. "The present limited data and the lack of inter-borehole testing is a major deficiency in testing the suitability of the site," the report says. The leaders of the three political parties on the council issued a statement yesterday saying that the report reinforced the council's concerns and emphasised the need for delay until all the facts were known. The waste authority Nirex welcomed the report, which it said confirmed its own position that there was a need for further research into the hydrogeology of the area.

Island for sale at £½m

An island which is home to one woman, 80,000 rabbits and a colony of grey seals is for sale - at £550,000. The 625-acre Ramsey Island, off the Welsh coast, is part of Pembrokeshire National Park and is owned by a family trust. Sue Ward, the island manager, said: "It is great taking visitors around but the best time is when they have gone home and it is just me."

English chess disaster

The World Chess Olympics in the Philippines is rapidly turning into a disaster for England's new team captain, Michael Stean (Raymond Keene writes). Whatever team he fields in Manila seems destined for calamity. After losing to Iceland by 3-1 in round nine, England went on to a 2-2 draw with little-favoured Italy, a team with only one grand master in its line up. Nigel Short capped events by losing to Garcia Palermo while the British champion Julian Hodgson lost his game to Braga, England, which was seeded second and has a team of powerful grand masters, now has 22½ points, is placed around 20th in the competition, and is heading for its worst performance in the Chess Olympics since 1970. Russia leads with 29½ points plus one adjourned game. Four rounds are still to be played.

Salmonella outbreak

Nineteen cases of salmonella poisoning were confirmed yesterday in an outbreak traced to egg sandwiches bought in a health food store. Thirty-nine people are so far known to have fallen ill but 20 cases have yet to be confirmed as salmonella poisoning. The outbreak in Haverfordwest, Dyfed has been traced to a shop in the Welsh town.

Murder case remands

Two men accused of murdering Special Constable Glenn Goodman were remanded in custody yesterday for four weeks. Paul Patrick Magee, 42, and Michael O'Brien, 28, who were arrested in Pontefract, West Yorkshire, a week ago, were remanded by Old Thames magistrates, east London, until July 16. The pair are also charged with the attempted murder of PC Alexander Kelly, 32, at Headley Bar, North Yorkshire. Reporting restrictions were not lifted.

Pension fund to sell land

TOP PRESS FRANCE

Last Minute

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NEWS IN BRIEF

**a Davies has
id operation**

A four-year-old from Eccles, Greater Manchester, underwent a major operation at the Children's Hospital in Farnborough, Hampshire, to correct a congenital heart defect. The child, who was born with a hole in the heart, is now recovering well. The operation was performed by a team of specialists from the hospital.

nuclear plant

The Hunterston B nuclear power station in Scotland is set to be decommissioned. The plant, which has been operating since 1977, is one of the oldest in the world. The decommissioning process is expected to take several years and will involve the removal of the reactor core and other radioactive materials.

t in train crash

A passenger train derailed in the north of England, causing several injuries. The train, which was carrying about 100 passengers, was travelling from Manchester to Leeds. It derailed at a station near Leeds, and the driver was injured. The cause of the crash is still under investigation.

eld water worry

There is a growing concern about the quality of drinking water in some areas. A report from the Environment Agency has found that some water supplies are contaminated with nitrates. This is a health risk, especially for young children. The agency is urging people to boil their water before drinking it.

d for sale at £11

A small island in the Channel Islands is for sale for £11 million. The island, which is about 100 acres in size, has a beautiful view of the sea. It is located in the parish of St. Peter, Jersey. The seller is a private individual who is looking for a buyer who will use the island as a holiday home.

sh chess disaster

A chess tournament in the Philippines ended in a disaster for the organisers. The tournament, which was held in Manila, was supposed to be a major event. However, it was plagued by problems from the start. The organisers were unable to attract enough players, and the tournament was eventually abandoned.

onella outbreak

A case of salmonella poisoning has been reported in a family. The family, who live in the north of England, had been eating chicken. The child became ill, and the family doctor has advised them to stop eating chicken. The case is being investigated by the health authorities.

der case reman

A case of meningitis has been reported in a child. The child, who is from the north of England, has been in hospital for several days. The doctors are treating the child with antibiotics. The case is being investigated by the health authorities.

their magic

A group of people are claiming to have discovered a new magic trick. They say that they have found a way to make objects disappear. They are showing the trick to a group of people, and they are asking for donations. The group is called the 'Magic of the Future'.

Divorce risk 'greater for trial marriage couples'

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

Couples who live together before marriage are more likely to face divorce and marital breakdown than those who wait until after their wedding day, according to a survey published yesterday.

The research is likely to be seized upon by those opposed to the idea that living together in a "trial marriage" is a good foundation for wedded bliss, although marriage guidance and family studies specialists cautioned against reading too much into the findings. Men and women who lived together before their wedding were about 40 per cent more likely to have divorced within 15 years of marriage than those who had not, according to the research. The survey showed that, of couples who married for the first time in the early 1980s, those who lived together beforehand were 50 per cent more likely to have divorced within five years and 60 per cent more likely to have divorced after eight years.

Couples who married between 1970-5 after living together were 30 per cent more likely to divorce after five years than those who had not cohabited. This figure, according to a study based on statistics from the 1989 General Household Survey, increased to 40 per cent for couples who lived together before marrying between 1975-9, and to 50 per cent

for those marrying between 1980-4. John Haskey, author of the report, which is published in *Population Trends*, said: "If marital breakdown is taken as either divorce or separation, the marriages of those who pre-maritally cohabited were 60 per cent more likely to end in breakdown."

The report said that more than 50 per cent of those marrying in the late 1980s had lived together before their wedding day, a trend that has grown quickly since the 1960s, when cohabiting was criticised by some as "living in sin".

Mr Haskey cautions against establishing a causal link between living together and divorce, but suggests that there might be factors common to both. Couples marrying in a civil ceremony are more likely to have lived together than those who marry with a religious ceremony. Marital breakdown rates are higher among those marrying in register offices.

He added that some specialists in marriage and family life believed that pre-marital cohabitation reflected a weaker commitment to marriage and that cohabitation attracted people who were more unconventional in their beliefs and lifestyles. Zelda West-Meads, of Relate, said that there might be religious and psychological reasons for the findings. Those with a religious influence might not live together and were prepared to stick with a marriage when it ran into difficulties.

Others chose to live together because they feared making an ultimate commitment and, when they married, felt trapped. "Because they have difficulty making a commitment and have difficulty with the intimacy of marriage, panic sets in and this can lead to breakdown."

Women in the United Kingdom have more children than those in any EC country apart from Ireland, according to a further report in *Population Trends*. They had 1.84 children in 1990, compared with 2.14 in Ireland and 1.8 in France. Outside the EC, women in Sweden have 2.14 children, and in the former Soviet Union 2.26.

The survey of fertility trends in Europe showed that the UK's fertility rate for those aged 15-19 was higher than for any other Western European country. In 1990, the rate for the under-20s was 32 births per 1,000, compared with under 10 per 1,000 in France, Denmark, Switzerland and Holland. Only Portugal and Greece had rates of more than 20.

The UK rate was slightly higher in 1990 than in 1980. In every other EC country it had declined, in some cases by as much as a third.

Population Trends (OPCS: Stationery Office, £7.75)



Flutes for two: James Galway, master flautist, giving practical advice yesterday to a novice player, Natalie Nogueira, nine, of Newland House School, Twickenham, west London, at the launch of the first London International Flute Convention

Zoo group fights closure

By MICHAEL HORNSEY

A LAST-ditch move to save London Zoo from closure was launched yesterday by a consortium of animal keepers, scientists and fellows of the Zoological Society of London. The London Zoo Survival Group, which aims to preserve the zoo as a centre for breeding endangered animals and a public spectacle, was formed after a meeting of the 240 staff there voted unanimously to fight closure.

The group wants to rename the zoo the National Centre for animal conservation. It called for the resignation of the ruling council and management responsible for the decision to close the zoo in the face of plunging attendances and an annual deficit running at £2 million. Doug Richardson, the zoo's collections manager and chairman of the group, said: "London Zoo is threatened with closure only because of staggering management incompetence throughout the 1980s. This culminated in the crucial winter of 1991 and spring of 1992 when the zoo failed to produce a publicity campaign even to inform the people of London that the zoo was still open. Largely because of this attendance has fallen this year by almost 30 per cent, far more than can be accounted for by the recession."

The group plans to open negotiations with the government to present a proposal for the saving of the zoo. The government will be asked primarily for breathing space in which to put a new management in place. The group wants to know what has happened to an estimated £5 million left over from a one-off final endowment of £10 million paid to the society by the government in 1988 and the outcome of promises of up to £10 million in commercial sponsorship announced by the society earlier this year.

De Gaulle BBC scripts fetch £38,686

By SARAH JANE CHECKLAND, SALEROOM CORRESPONDENT

DRRAFTS for the BBC broadcasts that launched the exiled Charles de Gaulle as the champion of the Free French during the second world war have sold for £38,686 at Sotheby's New York with simultaneous broadcast bidding in London.

Owned by a descendant of de Gaulle's wartime secretary, the drafts were bought by the Institut Charles de Gaulle

in France at double their pre-sale estimate. Written in a rushed hand, with many scribbled corrections, the speeches are a unique record of the moment when the obscure general took advantage of the British war cabinet's authorisation for the Free French to broadcast five minutes twice daily to their homeland.

"La France a choisi contre l'ennemi et contre ses collaborateurs... La France a choisi de triompher un jour..." (France has chosen the path against the

enemy... France will triumph one day). reads a speech from December 1940. That for New Year's Day 1941 closes with the words: "The first of January 1941: France hopes and waits for nothing but victory". Having weighed his words carefully, as shown by these drafts, de Gaulle would pass them to his secretary to type. He would then read the clean typescript when broadcasting.

Vicar sells vase, page 16

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Next in line comes the brand-new portable BJ-20, which, with 50-

sheet automatic feeder as standard, doubles as a versatile desktop printer. Other features here include faster speed of 110cps in high-speed mode, and, depending on emulation, a choice of up to eight resident typefaces in a range of pitches.

For larger applications, choose the BJ-300 or top-of-the-range BJ-330. Each offers versatile paper handling, including built-in tractor and optional single/dual-bin cut-sheet feeders. On top of that, the BJ-330 also gives you 136-column

width at 10cps - ideal for spreadsheet, legal and accounting output. Both BJ-300 and BJ-330 have three resident typefaces in a range of pitches, and optional font cards to increase your choice of typefaces.

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STOP PRESS FRANCE - WITH THE TIMES AND LBC

Last Minute Booking Bargains

Each week throughout the summer, *The Times* and LBC will bring you news of last minute bargains available for travellers to France. The latest information on bookings, flights, traffic problems and holiday ideas.



Many ferries are already full this weekend as the peak season for travel to France gets under way. Most ferry companies advise checking availability before arrival and warn that cabins are already fully booked on many crossings.

Air France says that there are still seats available on morning departures to Paris from Heathrow but that after 3pm they are heavily booked. Air UK are "very busy" between Stansted and Paris today also on flights to Nice from Stansted tomorrow. T.A.T. report limited availability on all flights between Gatwick and Paris this weekend.

Thomas Cook is offering three day short breaks by air with Airtrans using flights to Beauvais from Newcastle, Birmingham and East Midlands airports with accommodation for £79, or seven nights in a three star hotel in Paris, with flights, for £169. Air France is offering a reduction of £35 per adult for their inclusive hotel and fly-drive holidays until July 4.

P&O European Ferries report very limited availability on all morning services today and most tomorrow. Brittany Ferries has no car space on early morning departures this weekend from Portsmouth to St Malo and from Portsmouth to Caen and Poole to

Cherbourg. Sally Ferries still has availability on all sailings for motorists from Ramsgate and Dunkirk next week. Hoverspeed has limited space today on Seacat sailings from Folkestone and the hovercraft from Dover to Calais is full all morning.

Sterling has strengthened slightly against the franc, according to Travelers, with exchange rates between 9.48 and 9.41 when buying and 10.35 and 10.38 when selling.

The *Times* columnist and author, Barry Turner, will be interviewed by Angela Rippon on her LBC *NEWSTALK's Drivetime* programme next Thursday June 25 at 6.50pm.

Passport to France, L&T section, page 5

NORMAN CONQUEST

Enjoy the land of cider apples, plus a chance to win a Parisian break and get a free trip with *Passport to France Weekend Times*

Fraud office power of investigation strengthened

BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

IN THE wake of the House of Lords ruling last week, Kevin and Ian Maxwell are unlikely to be able to rely on the defendant's traditional right to silence when questioned by the Serious Fraud Office in connection with charges brought yesterday.

Over the centuries, the principle has become rooted in law that defendants should not be placed at risk of incriminating themselves and should not therefore have to answer any questions, on the ground that the material could then be used against him.

Last week, however, the law lords unanimously allowed an appeal by the Serious Fraud Office, reaffirming the wide investigative powers of the office to compel people to answer questions or face the sanction of a fine or imprisonment.

The law lords' ruling overturned a High Court judgment in November that once someone had been charged with an offence he or she was entitled to the traditional right of silence and need not comply with the fraud office's extensive questioning powers under section 2 of the Criminal Justice Act 1987.

The case was originally brought by a company director, Wallace Smith, chairman and managing director of Wallace Smith Trust Company, who maintained that once charged he was not obliged to answer the office's questions.

In the original action in the High Court, Lord Justice Nolan said that there was nothing in the 1987 act to suggest that the Serious Fraud Office could exercise its powers to investigate suspected serious or complex fraud without a caution where a person had

RIGHT OF SILENCE

already been charged. One lawyer in last week's case indicated that in his view it was still open to a defendant to refuse to answer questions. The solicitor to Wallace Smith, Charles Buckley of Garstangs, said that in his view the ruling had indicated that the Serious Fraud Office could ask questions but had not clarified the circumstances in which a defendant might refuse to answer.

Most lawyers view the ruling glumly, regarding it as further a dent in the already eroded right to silence. Less attention has been paid to the powers of the Department of Trade and Industry investigators, who are looking into some of the associated aspects of the Maxwell pension funds enquiry and whose powers are even more extensive.

Diane Webber, a solicitor with the West End firm Woolf Seddon, who specialises in white-collar crime, said: "Little appears to be made of the fact that the powers of the DTI pose a far more serious threat to potential defendants than the powers of the SFO."

The department, she adds, also uses its powers of investigation far more frequently than does the Serious Fraud Office, which only looks into cases where the value of the fraud is more than £5 million.

In particular, she points out, answers to questions put by the department may be used as evidence at a subsequent trial, but answers to questions put by the fraud office may only be used if they are inconsistent with answers to questions given in court.

"One wonders if the next step won't be to chip away at this, and remove the inconsistency so that the SFO has the same powers as the DTI in this respect," she said.

In the meantime, the right to silence is being examined by the Royal Commission on Criminal Justice. The commission is expected to recommend that the defence must disclose its case by a certain point before trial, although the right to remain silent in the police station or in the dock will be preserved.

The Serious Fraud Office was established in 1987 to investigate and prosecute cases of serious and complex fraud. Originally, only those cases involving more than £2 million were investigated.



Lord Justice Nolan
High Court ruling

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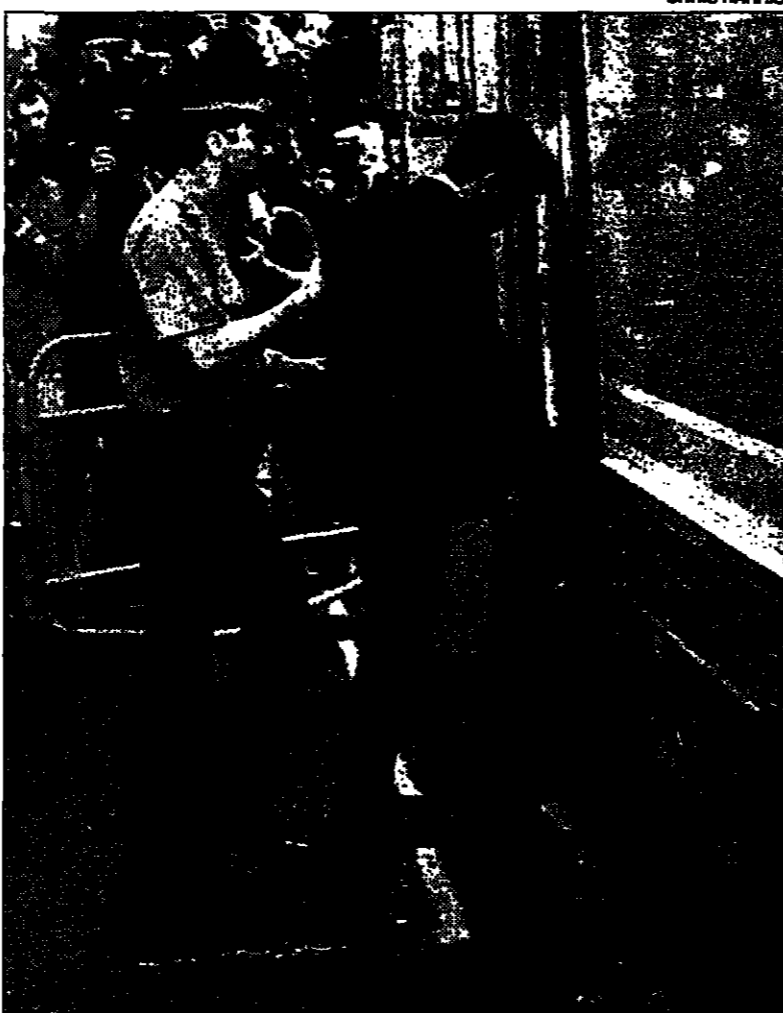
This Sunday as every good son and daughter needs no reminding is Father's Day. But what you may need reminding of is the wonderful array of gifts that Harrods can offer you. In our Wine Department on the Ground Floor, for instance, we have over 100 different whiskies, including, Glenfiddich 12 year old malt, £17.25. If, however, you'd like to ensure he turns out as well as you have, head for Men's Grooming on the Ground Floor, where we have the latest ranges from amongst others, Polo, Cartier and Aramis. To improve your Father's par, our Golf Shop in our Sports and Leisure Department on the Fifth Floor even has an Automatic putting machine, £14 and the world's first computerised motor caddy, £595. So if you really want to make your Father's day this Sunday, visit Harrods. And show him that apart from inheriting his eyes, nose and mouth, you also inherited his impeccable good taste.

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CHRIS HARRIS



ALISTAIR GRANT

Eye of the storm: Kevin Maxwell braves the media crush to make a statement after leaving City of London magistrates' court yesterday (top). Earlier, his brother Ian (left) and Larry Trachtenberg leave Snow Hill police station and are put in a police van for the drive to court

Rudderless Mirror steams on regardless

AFTER lunch one afternoon, I returned to find Robert Maxwell sitting in my office. "I am editor of the *Daily Mirror* now," he beamed, winking at a City acolyte he had in tow. "There's nothing to it."

Since Maxwell's death on November 5, one has been entitled to ask what there is to being chairman of *Mirror* Group Newspapers. The *Daily Mirror* and its Sunday sisters, the *Sunday Mirror* and *The People*, have continued to be published without any discernible hitch and in spite of huge upheavals on the management floors.

Ian Maxwell assumed the chairman's role for a month until voted off the board. Ernie Burrell took over and now has been forced to step down. The newspapers are

ownerless, with the administrator and the banks controlling their fate. Yet the journalists work on as normal, the advertising staff continue to bring in revenue and the group is according to all reports, trading profitably.

To outsiders, this might seem extraordinary, given the emphasis Maxwell laid on his central role as "the publisher". To insiders, who traditionally view owners and managers as an expensive appendage, it is simply business as usual. In truth, although Maxwell falsely presented himself as the saviour of *Mirror* Group, the institution is greater than its owner.

The *Daily Mirror* — "my flagship" as Maxwell referred to it — has survived a chequered history. Founded in 1903 by Lord Northcliffe

The *Mirror* is surviving happily without its proud "saviour", writes its former editor Roy Greenslade

as a paper for "ladies of breeding", it soon foundered for want of enough gentlewomen readers. Relunched a year later as a picture paper, circulation took off and, by the time the paper passed to Northcliffe's brother, Lord Rothermere, it was a huge success. However, its fortunes declined under its new owner. It was not until the 1940s that the *Mirror*, under its chairman Harry Guy Bartholomew, set itself on course to become Britain's biggest-selling daily. "Bart" honed

the paper into a popular, campaigning, irreverent tabloid, but was overthrown by Cecil King in 1951.

King hired Hugh Cudlipp as editor-in-chief and together they transformed the *Mirror* into the bible of the British working class. By 1964 it had reached a sale of five million, a record no other daily has come close to achieving since. In 1968, Cudlipp deposed King but the next year, made a mistake by selling the ailing *Sun* (formerly the *Daily Herald*) to Rupert Murdoch.

This was to seal the fate of the *Mirror* as the new *Sun* gradually supplanted it in popularity. In the early 1980s, the *Mirror's* owner, Reed, decided to offload the *Mirror* Group. Maxwell pounced in 1984 and would

ever after claim that he had saved the paper. To suggest that it required saving is akin to believing that a passer-by has saved a swimmer ankle-deep in a paddling pool by throwing him a lifeline.

It was one of Maxwell's many lies, although he believed it as sincerely as if it were the truth. Every current *Mirror* employee believes that the newspaper has run better without him.

However, the directors realise that this rudderless ship cannot sail on forever without a captain. A senior executive said: "There could be a revenue problem by the end of the year and we must consider raising the cover price. But who will make the final decision?" A colleague quipped: "Perhaps we should put in a call to the Mount of Olives."

Reporters turn the tables amid talk of revenge

BY LIN JENKINS

THE *Daily Mirror*, the engine house of Robert Maxwell's empire, was more like a runaway train yesterday. Having at first protected him against unwelcome enquiry after his death, the newspaper has turned the tables and is determined to beat its rivals on the story of the arrest of Maxwell's sons.

The embarrassment chairman Ernest Burrellington's ousting without its knowledge was tempered by a tip off about the arrests of Kevin and Ian Maxwell and Larry Trachtenberg. The *Mirror* was there to see the arrests.

The development also cleared the air of confusion which had caused indecision. A new chairman and the three arrests, has enabled *Mirror* Group Newspapers to look to the future. Richard Stott, editor of the *Daily Mirror*, oozed good humour in the belief that the path was now open to settle new ownership and the future of the group. Next week's trading results, rumoured to be good, are eagerly awaited.

Mirror journalists, many of whom might lose a great deal

AT THE MIRROR

with Maxwell's plundering of the pension fund, were ebullient. Talk in their local pub, over restrained half pints, was of revenge, and then the broader spectrum of the complexities surrounding fraud trials. They took it in turns to examine the list of charges.

Few doubted that they would soon see a new chairman to replace Sir Robert Clark, former deputy chairman of TSB Group, since the way was now open to sell the titles. Journalists are inclined to be conspiracy theorists and to distrust management. They would prefer to see a new order upstairs. "There are those who have no moral right to control a newspaper," one said. "All those who worked with the big man are tainted."

One of the most graphic indicators of the change since the collapse of the Maxwell empire is that they can now find a parking space in the car park. There used to be expensive cars belonging to those who worked on a floor of their building at Holborn Circus. That they were paid by the *Mirror* group is in no doubt, what they did for it. "People who can afford to run a newspaper, and have the ego to want to run one, are probably not entirely trustworthy," another journalist said. "As long as they don't interfere too much with the newspaper nobody is going to object. We just want to get out of this mire and get on with our job of being a good newspaper with a political slant which is in marked contrast to all the others."

There was surprise and glee at the arrests. The journalists' fear had been that the pensioners would be the ones to pay the price for Maxwell's adventures. "At last there is the feeling that something is moving. Now we would like to see some real action against the banks," said one journalist. His colleagues nodded in agreement.

Full list of charges facing the three men

The full charges faced by Kevin and Ian Maxwell and Larry Trachtenberg are as follows:

KEVIN MAXWELL

□ That you did, together with Larry Trachtenberg, on or about October 22, 1991, steal a portfolio of securities quoted on the International Stock Exchange to a value of £5,067,292.86, being the property of AGBPT Ltd. Contrary to Section 1, Theft Act, 1968.

□ That you did, together with Larry Trachtenberg, on or about October 31, 1991, steal a portfolio of securities quoted on the International Stock Exchange managed by Invesco MIM plc to a value of £12,375,215, being the property of MGPT Ltd. Contrary to Section 1, Theft Act, 1968.

□ That you did, together with Larry Trachtenberg, on or about October 22, 1991, steal a portfolio of securities quoted on the International Stock Exchange managed by Lloyds Investment Management Ltd to a value of £7,009,056, being the property of MGPT Ltd. Contrary to Section 1, Theft Act, 1968.

property of MGPT Ltd. Contrary to Section 1, Theft Act, 1968.

□ That you did, together with Larry Trachtenberg, on or about October 22, 1991, steal a portfolio of securities quoted on the International Stock Exchange to a value of £5,067,292.86, being the property of AGBPT Ltd. Contrary to Section 1, Theft Act, 1968.

□ That you did, together with Larry Trachtenberg, on or about October 31, 1991, steal a portfolio of securities quoted on the International Stock Exchange managed by Invesco MIM plc to a value of £12,375,215, being the property of MGPT Ltd. Contrary to Section 1, Theft Act, 1968.

□ That you did, on or about October 22, 1991, steal a portfolio of securities quoted on the International Stock Exchange formerly managed by Thornton Investments Management Ltd to a value of £6,939,885.46, the property of MGPT Ltd. Contrary to Section 1, Theft Act, 1968.

□ That you did, between November 4, 1990, and November 9, 1990, steal £1 million Beritz International Incorporated common stock shares, belonging to Macmillan Incorporated. Con-

THE CHARGES

trary to Section 1, Theft Act, 1968.

□ That you, together with Ian Maxwell and Larry Trachtenberg, between November 10, 1991, and November 14, 1991, conspired to defraud the Swiss Volks Bank (the Bank) of US\$35.5 million by dishonestly and falsely representing two officers of the bank.

(i) that Robert Maxwell Group plc was the legal and beneficial owner of 2.4 million common shares in Beritz International Incorporated (the Shares);

(ii) that the Robert Maxwell Group plc had good and marketable title to the shares, free of any and all security interests or options, in favour of, or claims of, any other person except the Bank. Conspiracy to defraud, contrary to common law.

LARRY STEVEN TRACHTENBERG
□ That you, together with Kevin Maxwell, between

May 1, 1991, and December 10, 1991, conspired to defraud the Swiss Bank Corporation of £55,783,466.76 by dishonestly being party to the sale of securities belonging to First Tokio Index Trust Ltd which you knew was contrary to representations and warranties given to the said bank. Conspiracy to defraud contrary to common law.

□ That you did, together with Kevin Maxwell on or about September 30, 1991, steal a portfolio of securities quoted on the International Stock Exchange managed by Lloyds Investment Management Ltd to a value of £7,009,056, being the property of MGPT Ltd. Contrary to Section 1, Theft Act, 1968.

□ That you did, together with Kevin Maxwell, on or about October 22, 1991, steal a portfolio of securities quoted on the International Stock Exchange managed by Lloyds Investment Management Ltd to a value of £12,446,703.56, being the property of MGPT Ltd. Contrary to Section 1, Theft Act, 1968.

□ That you did, together with Kevin Maxwell, on or about October 22, 1991, steal a portfolio of securities quoted on the International Stock Exchange to a value of

£5,067,292.86, being the property of AGBPT Ltd. Contrary to Section 1, Theft Act, 1968.

□ That you did, together with Kevin Maxwell, on or about October 31, 1991, steal a portfolio of securities quoted on the International Stock Exchange managed by Invesco MIM plc to a value of £12,375,215, being the property of MGPT Ltd. Contrary to Section 1, Theft Act, 1968.

□ That you, together with Kevin Maxwell and Ian Maxwell, between November 10, 1991, and November 14, 1991, conspired to defraud the Swiss Volks Bank (the Bank) of US\$35.5 million by dishonestly and falsely representing to officers of the Bank.

(i) that Robert Maxwell Group plc was the legal and beneficial owner of 2.4 million common shares in Beritz International Incorporated (the Shares);

(ii) that the Robert Maxwell Group plc had good and marketable title to the shares, free of any and all security interests or options, in favour of, or claims of, any other person except the Bank. Conspiracy to defraud, contrary to common law.

security interests or options in favour of, or claims of, any other person except the Bank. Conspiracy to defraud, contrary to common law.

IAN MAXWELL

□ That you, together with Kevin Maxwell and Larry Trachtenberg, did between November 10, 1991, and November 14, 1991, conspire together to defraud the Swiss Volks Bank (the Bank) of US\$35.5 million by dishonestly and falsely representing to officers at the Bank.

(i) that Robert Maxwell Group plc was the legal and beneficial owner of 2.4 million common shares in Beritz International Incorporated (the Shares);

(ii) that the Robert Maxwell Group plc had the right to execute and deliver and to perform its obligations pursuant to a pledge agreement between the Bank and Robert Maxwell Trading plc.

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KEVIN MAXWELL

Unsold h

Reporters turn the tables amid talk of revenge

THE Daily Mirror the main house of Robert Maxwell's empire, was mired in a bitter feud yesterday. Having at first protected against its own enemies, the paper has turned the tables on the story of the Maxwell empire.

The embattled newspaper, which has been the mainstay of the Maxwell empire, was yesterday the target of a bitter attack by a group of journalists who claim to have a great deal of information about the Maxwell empire.

At the Mirror, the Maxwell empire was yesterday the target of a bitter attack by a group of journalists who claim to have a great deal of information about the Maxwell empire.

At the Mirror, the Maxwell empire was yesterday the target of a bitter attack by a group of journalists who claim to have a great deal of information about the Maxwell empire.

Key role was given to mystery man from US

BY NEIL BENNETT, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

THE mysterious Larry Trachtenberg was one of Robert and Kevin Maxwell's closest advisers and played a key role in the centre of their business empire.

The 39-year-old Californian came to Britain to study and later lecture in international relations at the London School of Economics. He was recruited by Robert Maxwell in 1986 and rose to become the joint managing director of London & Bishopsgate International Investment Management (LBI), a company set up by Robert Maxwell in 1988 to manage part of his companies' pension funds, and a director of several other key companies within the Maxwell empire.

Mr Trachtenberg arrived in Britain from the United States in 1976, when he was 23, to take an MSc at the London School of Economics in international relations. A year later he began but never completed a PhD on international institutions, such as the United Nations. Instead he began lecturing at the university. In 1979 he won his first post as an occasional teacher, and was repeatedly promoted until he became a full-time lecturer in 1982.

In 1983, however, he left the LSE and founded a new information service called Global Analysis Systems with Andrew Smith, a fellow academic.

The two men hoped to sell daily political and economic commentaries, prepared by leading academics, to international businesses via computer links.

The business was not successful and in 1986 Mr Smith and Mr Trachtenberg approached Robert Maxwell to ask for financial backing. Mr Maxwell, who was expanding his media empire rapidly at the time bought the



Laura Maxwell, right, wife of Ian, outside their home in Belgravia yesterday. Last night the couple visited Kevin and Pandora Maxwell, staying just over an hour

Team of 55 ends seven-month enquiry into files

BY LOUISE HIDALGO

WITHIN four weeks of Robert Maxwell's death, his publishing empire was in the hands of the administrators. Since last November, a team of 55 lawyers, accountants and police officers have been working on five separate investigations by the Serious Fraud Office.

November 5 Robert Maxwell died at sea off Tenerife. November 6 Kevin and Ian Maxwell appointed chairmen of the Maxwell Communication Corporation (MCC) and Mirror Group Newspapers (MGN).

November 7 Trading resumed in MCC and MGN shares after being temporarily suspended following Robert Maxwell's disappearance. On the first day of trading, MCC shed more than £300 million in value while MGN gained £115 million. MCC to

Team of 55 ends seven-month enquiry into files

BY LOUISE HIDALGO

sell its 56 per cent stake in Berlitz, the language teaching company Mr Maxwell bought as part of his Macmillan takeover. November 10 Robert Maxwell buried. It emerged that the DTI had been considering investigating share transactions by the Maxwell empire prior to his death. The Special Fraud Office began its investigations.

November 12 The sale of the MCC subsidiary, Macmillan Computer Publishing, for £88 million was announced. November 18 Swiss Bank Corporation called in the Serious Fraud Office to investigate a £57-million loan. November 19 MCC shares fell by £100 million. November 25 Thirty creditor banks formed steering committee to look at rescheduling of debts of £1.8bn. November 28 MCC postponed publication of results.

Team of 55 ends seven-month enquiry into files

BY LOUISE HIDALGO

was put up for sale. February 3 The House of Lords refused Kevin Maxwell's right-to-silence plea. February 7 The Maxwell brothers declined to answer written questions submitted to them by the parliamentary select committee. February 10 The Investment Management Regulatory Organisation (IMRO), told the parliamentary select committee, it had approved licences for two Maxwell investment companies. February 24 MGN staff started a campaign to recover pension fund assets held by banks worldwide. March 6 MGN announced it would be freezing payments to MGN pensioners. March 12 The parliamentary select committee called for the Maxwell brothers to be charged with contempt of Parliament. April 24 Trustees of the Maxwell-owned Headington Pension Plan froze payments to some 240 pensioners. May 18 Bishopsgate Investment Management's liquidators to sue Ian Maxwell over financial deals valued at more than £400 million.

June 5 Trustees of the MGN pension scheme to start action against five banks and financial institutions in a bid to recoup £88 million diverted by Robert Maxwell. June 8 MGN pensioners held a mass lobby at Westminster. Peter Lilley, the social security secretary, announced a £2.5 million fund to assist Maxwell pensioners, and appealed for voluntary contributions from city institutions. DTI inspectors to investigate MGN's £500-million flotation last year on the stock market. June 16 John Major denied the intelligence services had been collecting information on Robert Maxwell's business dealings. June 17 Ernest Burroughs, one of Robert Maxwell's most trusted lieutenants, stood down as MGN chairman. June 18 Kevin and Ian Maxwell and Larry Trachtenberg arrested and charged.

KEVIN MAXWELL'S ASSETS

PROPERTY

House at Jubilee Place, Chelsea (owned with wife)	£750,000
Chateau at Lot & Garonne, France	£250,000
Chelsea House contents (half share)	£30,000
French home furniture	£10,000
Morgan car	£25,000
Horse	£2,500
Tank	£500

INVESTMENTS

Quoted shares:

Transfer Technology Grp (1300 shares)	£3,115
Maxwell Comm Corp (2345)	£2821
BP (13,713)	£40,041
Selco TV (850)	£174
Grand Met(5)	£43

Unquoted shares:

British Int Helicopters (50)	nil
London & Bishopsgate Int Inv Mgt (150,000)	nil
Maxwell Aviation Int (50,000)	£650,000
Oxford Ltd (14 x £7 shares, 255 x £1)	nil
Derby County (100)	nil

BANK ACCOUNTS

Netwest:

Joint current a/c	£2
Current Plus a/c	£2,539
Special Reserve	£891
Deposit a/c (joint with daughter)	£226

Brown Shipley:

Deposit a/c	£739
Dollar a/c	£475
Deutschebank a/c	£62
French franc a/c	£49

Robert Fraser:

A/c No 5320	nil
A/c No 8099	£1,090
Dollar a/c	£879
A/c No 5409 & 8058 (joint with Ian)	£879
Manufacturers Hanover joint dollar a/c	£8
Bankers Trust a/c	nil
Credit Lyonnais French francs	£417

OTHER ASSETS

Owed to Mr Maxwell:

Loan to mother	£45,000
Loan to T Betsworth	£100,000
Sale of Derby County shares	£582
Commercial Union life assurance cover of £1 million	

DEBTS

Brown Shipley mortgage on Chelsea:

Starling loan	£439,303
Currency loan	£551,712
Credit Lyonnais mortgage on French home	£207,676
Loan Partners Inc	£511,475

Surplus of assets over liabilities: £211,843



Pandora Maxwell at her Chelsea home yesterday

Unsold homes have prices slashed

BY RACHEL KELLY, PROPERTY CORRESPONDENT

SOME of the choicest properties owned by Kevin Maxwell and his late father have had their prices slashed after failing to find buyers.

The price of Kevin Maxwell's eight bedroom Georgian mansion in Jubilee Place, Chelsea, has dropped by £225,000 since it went on the market three months ago for £1.65 million. Although it was put on the market at the instruction of Kevin Maxwell, Andrew Langdon, of the estate agents Aylesford, said: "You will appreciate that others were also involved." The house is owned by Kevin Maxwell and his wife Pandora, and has a charge against it to the merchant bankers Brown Shipley of an estimated £1 million.

The price of the Lady Ghislaine, Robert Maxwell's yacht, has officially not moved from the \$19.75 million (£10.7 million) asking price in March but a \$2.4 million tag was originally rumoured.

Kevin Maxwell's other properties are not on the market. He has a converted barn at Ipsden, Oxfordshire. The building is known as a Maxwell family retreat and was originally thought to be owned by Mr and Mrs Maxwell. But it was bought in March 1988 by Allcentre Properties, a holding company based at Headington Hill Hall.

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Party unease forces Ashdown to go slow over left alignments

By JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

PADDY Ashdown has been forced to go slow on his plans for a realignment with the left in the wake of the Conservative general election victory.

Following criticism from the party's grass roots that he had forged ahead with his ideas for the future of the party without consulting them, the Liberal Democrat leader has gone out of his way to explain his position and to obtain their views.

In a letter sent to all members this week he makes clear that he is not advocating a pact with Labour but is still keen to explore common areas where opposition parties can work together. He sets out proposals for a pluralistic democracy and asks for members' reactions.

The letter, which coincides with setting up a special telephone line to allow members to record their views on tape, follows Mr Ashdown's Chard speech last month when he called for a new forum for those wishing to see "a viable alternative to Conservatism".

The speech was widely interpreted as Mr Ashdown's first move towards a pact with Labour. The press reports went down badly among councillors and some constituencies who accused Mr Ashdown of plunging ahead

with his own views without consulting the party.

"Unfortunately, much of the press attention was misleading," Mr Ashdown's letter says. "It suggested that I was advocating a pact or an alliance with the Labour party. I am not proposing to impose pacts or electoral arrangements, or just adding up the votes of different parties and hoping that this will get us a majority."

His letter makes no specific reference to the forum but says that the Liberal Democrats should reach beyond their own party and involve others in debates. The voluntary service, the churches and others outside formal politics should be involved.

"We should see the value of a broader movement which can with the Liberal Democrats as its focus, win the battle of ideas in our country and provide Britain with an electable alternative to continued Conservative government," the letter goes on. "We should be prepared to give new leadership to the wider debate about the construction of a post-socialist, non-Conservative Britain."

While sources close to Mr Ashdown say that he is not backtracking from Chard, it is evident that he has slowed

down the pace of change. The sources argue that with the Labour party in disarray coping with internal recriminations, it is hardly the time to push for realignment.

They point, however, to a conference being held on Saturday by a fringe group called Link, the Liberal information network, which will discuss closer co-operation with Labour. Calum Macdonald, Labour MP for Western Isles, who is pressing for the two parties to agree a limited-seat pact at the next election, will be speaking at the event.

Mr Ashdown admits in his letter that some of his proposals will be opposed and would need debate and discussion. "I hope you will let me know what you think and I will make sure that all your comments are fed into our discussions."

In another sop to the grass-roots, Mr Ashdown has decided to hold a full discussion session on the Sunday of the party's annual conference in September about the party's future. The session would allow members to submit their views informally. Mr Ashdown would sit in throughout the session and a motion would then be drafted to be debated at the conference.



Bird's eye view: Earl Howe, parliamentary secretary at the agriculture ministry, observing the work of the Forestry Authority from a treetop walkway at the Alice Holt research station near Farnham, Surrey, yesterday. The site is open to the public today and Sunday

Major welcomes slowdown in jobless increase

By JILL SHERMAN AND ROSS TIEMAN

THE latest unemployment figures, showing a rise of 21,300 last month, led to bitter exchanges at Commons question time yesterday.

The prime minister said that the rise, which pushes unemployment to more than 2.7 million for the first time in five years, was very unwelcome but pointed out that the rate of increase was slowing, suggesting that Britain was on the road to recovery.

Although 9.6 per cent of the workforce are claiming unemployment benefit, the increase, calculated after seasonal adjustments, was less than predicted in the City.

Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, said that John Major's claims on economic recovery had been absurdly wrong.

Mr Major said the Opposition leader should be pleased by recent indicators showing a rise in manufacturing production, growth in retail sales and a slowdown in the rate of increase for average earnings to 7 per cent. "While the increase in unemployment is very unwelcome, it is clearly now slowing. So I think you can now see that we are on the road to recovery," he said.

Paddy Ashdown, Liberal Democrat leader, asked if the government was so consumed by self-satisfaction that it could "offer no hope, no policies and no action for those in need of jobs". Mr Major said that the govern-

ment was putting in place the right economic policy to sustain long term employment prospects.

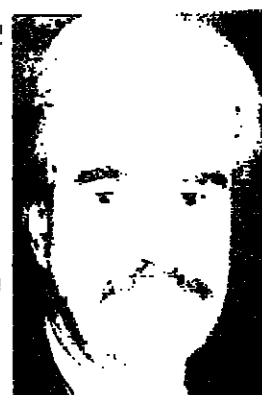
Gillian Shephard, the employment secretary, said any unemployment increase was a cause for concern, but there were encouraging signs for economic prospects. "The number of days lost to strikes during the year to April was at its lowest since 1929."

Employment department officials said the rate at which people are losing their jobs had apparently halved since the early summer 1991, when the count was rising by more than 60,000 every month. But there has now been a month-on-month rise in underlying unemployment for 25 consecutive months.

Earnings slow, page 19



Shephard: encouraging signs in economy



What is it that has led to this situation?

AROUND THE LOBBY

Britain to apologise to Sweden

Coal valleys buried under black legacy

High unemployment in the former Welsh mining towns is driving away thousands of young people, reports Tim Jones

ONE of Britain's most economically deprived areas is calling for increased help from government agencies to combat a legacy of despair inherited from the decline of King Coal.

Yesterday's increase in the national jobless figures has reinforced the conviction by Mid Glamorgan county council that it will be a decade or more before unemployment in the area, already amongst the highest in Britain, will fall.

A report considered by councillors yesterday shows that thousands of people are moving from the former mining valleys, leaving behind an impoverished and aging population. The report paints a grim picture of wasted talent, low incomes, poor housing and a breakup of tight-knit communities. Tens of thousands of people once worked in valleys such as the Rhondda, whose names were synonymous with fuelling the empire. Now, fewer than 1,000 are employed in the coal industry.

The report concedes that without special measures there is little hope of creating over the next decade the 20,000 jobs needed to reduce unemployment to 1990 levels. At present, the area has 26,568 people registered as unemployed, 14.5 per cent of the workforce compared with a national average of 9.4 per cent. Among males, the figure climbs to more than one in five.

The figure for the so-called hidden unemployed is the worst in Britain. Nearly one quarter of the county's males and half its females between the ages of 16 and 65 are defined as not being economically active, usually because of ill health, family responsibilities or a lack of prospects of finding a job.

The report states: "High levels of unemployment are a waste of human and economic potential and will make continued population loss from valleys communities and hardship and deprivation in many households very likely."

Taxless tenant

Longest recess

Urgent debate

Parliament today

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SALE PRICE £439.99
20% DEPOSIT, 6 DIRECT DEBIT MONTHLY PAYMENTS OF £58.

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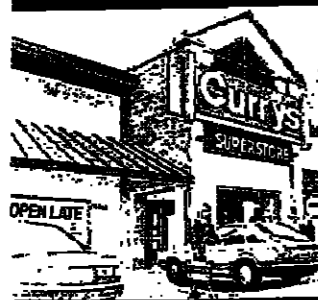
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Labour says failure to win voters' trust lost election

By Philip Webster
Chief Political Correspondent

LABOUR lost the election because it failed to win the trust of voters, party leaders said yesterday.

After days of recriminations about the role of key advisers and the impact of campaign events such as the "Jennifer's ear" health broadcast and the Sheffield rally, a national executive inquest has concluded that while mistakes were made none of them accounted for Labour's failure.

Neil Kinnock told the meeting: "We have to recognise that we lost by 7.5 per cent. Our defeat cannot be attributed to individuals or individual events, to the campaign, the conduct of the campaign or the last week of the campaign. The plain truth is that too many voters had memories of the problems in the Labour party of years gone by."

The executive responded to an appeal from John Evans, its chairman, to calm the rising passions in the party.

Instead, in what officials called a serious and rational appraisal, it decided that Labour had lost because it failed to convince people that it was safe to vote for it, that it had failed to deliver its "core" vote among council tenants, the unemployed and pensioners, that it had failed to attract sufficient women voters aged more than 35, that it had failed to match the Tory party organisation on the ground in many areas, and that the tabloid press had switched many voters from Labour at the last minute because of its continuous campaign of vilification against Mr Kinnock and the party in general.

Larry Whitty, the general secretary, whose 58 page report on the election formed the basis for the debate, said that the underlying problems facing Labour included a general unease about Labour's ability to manage the economy and fear that

some of its taxation measures would make people less well-off. "To some extent they were convinced by our arguments — many of them wanted to vote Labour — but almost at the last minute they decided they could not afford to do so in the depths of the recession." Labour had failed to woo "suburban man and woman".

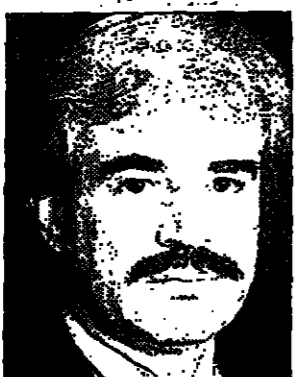
Mr Whitty said that Labour had failed to get out its core vote partly because of under-registration in some areas but partly because its appeal and organisation did not turn them out. While the Conservative headquarters performance had been regarded as a "shambles" its operation on the ground was considerably better. He said that the tabloid attack on Labour was more vicious than before. It had to be significant that 11 per cent of readers of *The Sun* appeared to have switched in the last week and only 1 per cent of *Daily Mirror* readers.

Gerald Kaufman, shadow foreign secretary, said before the meeting: "There were still too many memories of what had happened in the early 1980s when certain people in the party seemed to be more interested in taking over the party than winning a general election."

Mr Kinnock told the NEC that a small but crucial section of the population had felt they could not trust Labour. He was convinced that the polls had not got it as wrong as people had suggested. They had picked up a degree of change in the last days but not its full extent. Britain had the most biased press in any democratic country. "That is not to say that the tabloid press won the election for the Tories but it had a critical effect on a crucial 5 per cent."

He called on Labour not to mourn but to organise and prepare by building on developments in policy and organisation made in recent years, and to concentrate on winning the argument in front of the electorate and not within the Labour party. "If we are to help the have-nots we have to get the support of the haves and the have-not-enoughs. We must be the party that represents all the people."

At the end of the debate Mr Kinnock said that Labour could not proceed by blaming individuals and blood-letting. "We have not heard that today. I am delighted by that and I hope the positive mood of today's meeting will prevail in the future."



Whitty: party had failed to woo suburban man



Britain to apologise to Sweden

THE government is to apologise to the government and people of Sweden for the behaviour of English soccer hooligans at the European Championship. Tony Newton, leader of the House, said.

He was replying to Joe Ashton, Labour MP for Bassetlaw, who spoke of the "crass behaviour of the vandals" and asked the government to appeal to UEFA not to ban Sheffield Wednesday, Manchester United and Leeds United from European football, because they had committed no crime.

Taxless tenant
The government is to amend the Finance Bill to allow home-owners to rent a room without having to pay tax. The maximum rent allowed will be £65.

Longest recess
The Commons will rise for the summer recess on July 16 and return on October 19, the longest summer break in modern times.

Urgent debate
MPs are to have a debate on their research and secretarial allowances before the summer recess. Parliament today Commons (9.30): debate on private member's motion on recycling.

Clarke rejects ID cards

By Arthur Leathley

KENNETH Clarke, the home secretary, resisted pressure from Tory MPs yesterday to introduce an identity card scheme wanted by senior police officers. He said that he was not convinced of the need for the cards, or that they offered any law enforcement benefits.

Mr Clarke accepted that the Association of Chief Police Officers differed in its view, but wanted the association to set out in detail how such a scheme would help law enforcement. People were "prepared to do anything" to help the police, but would want to know the benefits.

Sir John Hunt (C, Ravensbourne) led the appeals for cards, which he said could help to prevent fraud, terrorism and illegal immigration. He said that Mr Clarke's response was disappointing.

David Winnick (Lab, Walsall North) said that there was no justification for introducing cards and added that people would suspect that their introduction would be another example of control from Europe. Mr Clarke replied that, although eight EC countries used identity cards, Britain would not be forced into following suit.

David Ashby (C, Leicestershire NW) said that the disappearance of frontier controls in Europe meant that it was time to start planning an identity card scheme. Mr Clarke said that cards would not obviate the need to retain internal frontier controls, which Britain believed it was entitled to maintain.



In the picture: Jack Cunningham, election campaign coordinator, arriving at the meeting yesterday

Party blandness blamed for woes

A new academic study of the Labour party paints a depressing picture of defeatism and local disillusion, Robin Oakley finds

LABOUR is unlikely to survive as the main alternative party of government in Britain unless it can be "energised" at the grass-roots level, according to a new examination of the party's membership. A new academic study, in which the party co-operated, suggests that Labour is suffering from the "nationalisation" of its own activities at branch level and that it is now suffering as badly from "blandness" as it did once from its internal splits.

In *Labour's Grass Roots* Patrick Seyd, a Sheffield University lecturer, and Paul Whiteley, a professor at the College of William and Mary, Virginia, argue that Labour supporters have become passive, demoralised by a series of electoral defeats and by the central party's takeover of campaigning.

They suggest that Labour is afraid of involving its own activists and they argue that safety-first policies have been taken too far. "If disunity exerts an electoral price, then so does blandness. Blandness puts off voters who complain that they cannot see the difference between the parties and it demoralises the activists who are no longer inclined to mobilise the vote."

The study praises Labour's organisers for stemming the

haemorrhage of membership in the 1980s, when it dropped to the lowest level for 40 years. But it says that the drive to double membership between 1987 and 1991 has failed.

Seyd and Whiteley praise the professionalism now evident in recruitment and fund-raising but say that there is no clear idea of the political input to be made by those recruited to Labour's ranks. Local meetings frequently fail to achieve a quorum, fewer resolutions are sent to party headquarters and "the party at national level often refrains from mounting any campaigns against particular features of Conservative government policies for fear that they may be dominated by 'ultra-left extremists'".

Labour organisation, the authors find, has suffered from the decline in traditional working class communities. A better educated and higher-paid population finds other activities more fun than politics; and many find single issue pressure groups more rewarding than political party membership.

Seyd and Whiteley say that Conservative dominance over British politics in the 1980s has induced defeatism on the left.

Labour's Grass Roots, Blackwell University Press, £32.50

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SHERMAN AND ROSS THEM

Employment in the former West is driving away thousands of people, reports Tim Jones

The report comes without special aid there, which has led to the loss of 20,000 jobs in the last 12 months. At the same time, the number of people in the region has fallen by 10,000. The report also shows that the number of people in the region who are unemployed has risen by 10,000. The report also shows that the number of people in the region who are in receipt of unemployment benefit has risen by 10,000.



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er black legac

employment in the former West is driving away thousands of people, reports Tim Jones

The report comes without special aid there, which has led to the loss of 20,000 jobs in the last 12 months. At the same time, the number of people in the region has fallen by 10,000. The report also shows that the number of people in the region who are unemployed has risen by 10,000. The report also shows that the number of people in the region who are in receipt of unemployment benefit has risen by 10,000.

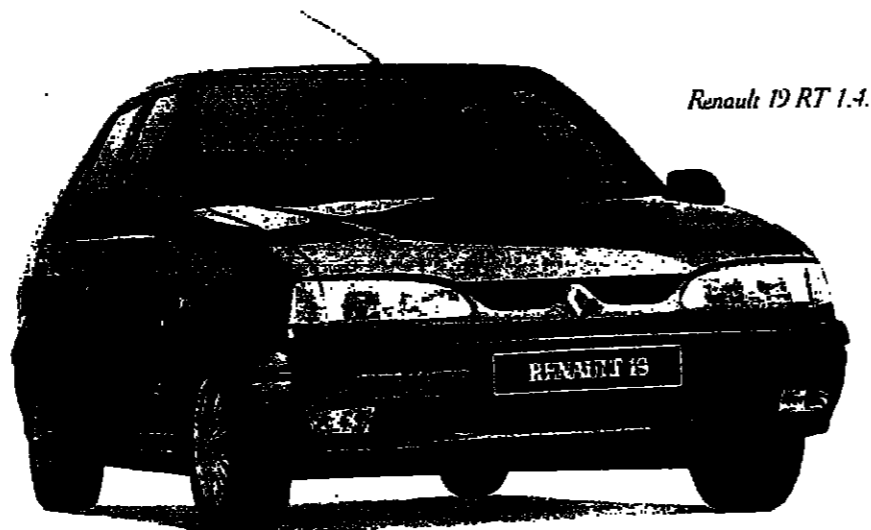
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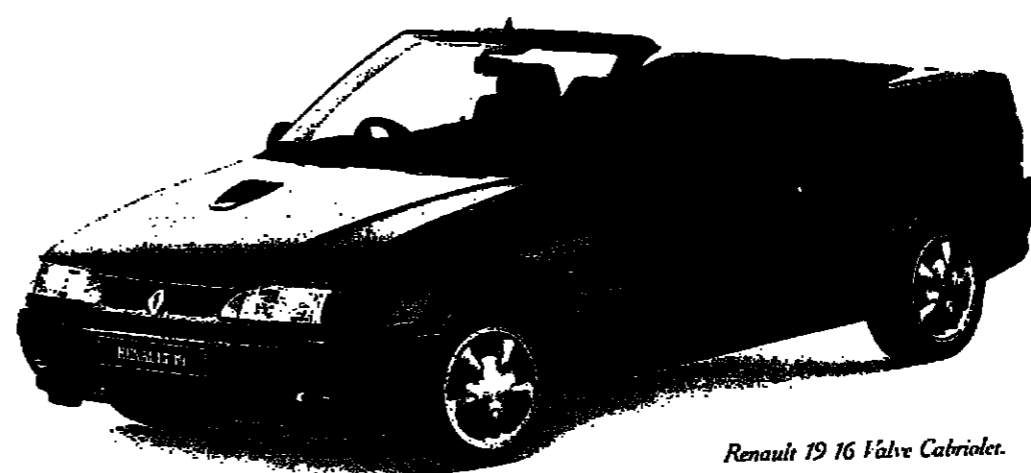
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Charity-run homes for elderly turn away poor

By JEREMY LAURANCE
SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

OLD people who want to live in residential homes run by voluntary organisations are being turned away unless they have substantial private incomes. The organisations can no longer afford to help them to pay the fees.

About a quarter of 55 voluntary organisations questioned in a survey said that they were no longer accepting people on income support because the payments fell too far below the costs of providing care. Until now, homes run by voluntary organisations have been seen as the last resort for people who cannot pay private home fees.

A survey by the Age Concern Institute of Gerontology found widespread anxiety among residents unable to meet their fees.

Many old people are having to ask as many as eight or nine charities for help in topping up income support payments because the average grant is only £20 a week towards an average shortfall of more than £50 a week. In all, 117 charities included in the research paid out £5 million to nearly 7,000 residents.

Fay Wright, author of the report, said: "One charity awarded a grant of 90p a week, which raises questions about administrative costs. Then as soon as the fees go up, which can happen several times a year, they are back to the charities for more help."

Among 400 elderly residents who applied to charities for help with topping up, more than half had contributed their personal allowance, worth £11.40 and intended for such items as stationery and toiletries, towards the fees, leaving themselves without spending money.

"The older they were the more likely they were to have had their personal allowance taken from them," Dr Wright said. "Among 90-year-olds, three quarters had lost it. Home owners are making agist assumptions that older people don't have personal needs."

Charities running homes lost an average of 16.8 per cent on their homes' incomes last year as a result of topping up payments for residents on income support. That is estimated to have absorbed 38 per cent of their total spending on old people. Five organisations had been forced to close homes and others had cut back on maintenance.

The report, commissioned by the Association of Charity Officers, said: "It is ironic that voluntary sector homes are sustaining such damage at a time when local authorities are under strong financial pressure from central government to withdraw from directly providing residential care themselves and to sell or transfer existing homes to the private sector."

Pensions at 65 'will penalise women'

By TIM JONES

THE government was asked yesterday to lower state pension ages to 60 for men and women and was told that it could risk another "poll tax debacle" if any decision to equalise them made people worse off.

The Equal Opportunities Commission, responding to a social security department discussion paper, urged the government to take a broader look at pensions before announcing proposals that will shape the pensions system for the next fifty years or more.

June Bridgeman, of the commission, said that some sources suggested that, if retirement age were equalised at 65, it would save the government more than £3 billion, but would be at the expense of elderly women. "Even now, many women face poverty in retirement, largely due to the caring responsibilities that have kept them out of the workforce for long periods or forced them into low-paid, part-time jobs resulting in inadequate pensions," she said.

"Millions of women already have a raw deal on pensions. Our main concern is to ensure that equality is not achieved at the expense of making them even worse off."

She said that the government had claimed it wanted wide public discussion of the issue, "but this has scarcely begun so far as women are concerned." People did not want to be blocked off by selective statistics and pensioners were unlikely to see any reason for equalisation to produce a Treasury windfall at their expense.

Tate wants £100m to expand by 60 per cent

By SIMON TAIT, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

THE Tate Gallery hopes to emulate the National Gallery with multi-million pound expansion plans that will increase exhibition space by at least 60 per cent.

A scheme is to be drawn up for the approval of David Mellor, the heritage secretary, which would involve new building and conversion of a former nurses' home on the gallery's Millbank site. The aim is to complete it between the Tate's centenary year, 1997, and 2000.

No figures have been calculated yet, but the development cost is likely to be close to £50 million. The existing galleries urgently need repair and upgrading, which would bring the total to more than £100 million.

Nicholas Serota, the Tate's director, said yesterday: "Using the available space already on the site, we could increase our display area by two thirds. Funding would have to be a mixture of private and public money."

Controversial aspects of proposals which were put before the trustees on Wednesday included moving curators and conservators

from the main building, separating them from the paintings on display, and splitting the Tate's British and modern collections. Mr Serota said he believed that a scheme could be devised to make neither option necessary.

The extra space on the existing site might not be enough. Between 15 and 20 per cent of the Tate's collection can now be displayed, whereas the gallery would like to be able to show 50 to 60 per cent.

The former nurses' home,



Serota: seeks public and private funding

fronting on to Isip Street, is occupied, as a tenant of the Tate, by the National Art Collections Fund, whose new director, David Barrie, has said that it should move within a year to premises yet to be found. The Tate's trustees would like to acquire a neighbouring site used by the Ministry of Defence, which has on it the Royal Army Medical School and barracks buildings.

Cl Lord St John of Fawsley, chairman of the Royal Fine Art Commission, has criticised the poor quality of government buildings and its lack of architectural distinction.

"Government has become a principal patron of architecture in Britain and the direct successor of some of the great private patrons of the past, but it is far from reaching the high standards of building achieved by many of them," he said, launching a report on government patronage and architecture, called *Medici and the Millennium?* He called on Mr Mellor to grasp the approaching millennium as a rare opportunity to improve architectural patronage.



Serota: seeks public and private funding

Lottery revives Albert's cultural vision

SOUTH Kensington would become a traffic-free cultural fairground, reawakening Prince Albert's vision, under a scheme to mark the millennium being prepared by the architect Sir Norman Foster and to be funded by a national lottery.

The scheme would also mark the 150th anniversary of the body which created the Great Exhibition of 1851 and the estate financed from the exhibition's profits, intended to "increase the means of industrial education, and extend the influence of science and art upon productive industry."

The Royal Commission of the 1851 Exhibition found itself with a profit of £186,000 and, on Albert's suggestion, bought an 87-acre area at Brompton as a cultural estate and called it South Kensington. The commission is still the landlord for the Royal Albert Hall, the Royal College of Art, the Imperial College of Science, the Royal College of Music and most of the other institutions in the block

The heritage secretary has no shortage of suggestions for marking the millennium. Simon Tait looks at schemes for London

bounded by Exhibition Road, Brompton Road, Queensgate and Kensington Core.

The heads of all those institutions have asked Sir Norman, the science college's consultant architect, to prepare a feasibility plan for returning to Albert's vision. It includes creating a precinct by closing Exhibition Road and taking traffic through an underpass between Hyde Park and Brompton Road. The pedestrian passage between South Kensington Underground station and the Science Museum would be extended to the Albert Hall and made into a market.

Exhibition Road would become a tree-lined promenade, with parking underneath Kensington Gardens. The institutions would be altered to have their main entrances facing inwards, so that the Albert Hall's main

foyer would be where it was designed to be, facing south towards the Great Exhibition memorial statue and the music college.

Patrick Deuchar, executive of the Albert Hall, said: "We all want to return to Albertopolis, to the coherence of the estate as Albert saw it, instead of the collection of isolated buildings which it has become."

Another scheme to mark the millennium, the South Bank opera house, sprang from the 1951 Festival of Britain. Sir Denys Lasdun, architect of the National Theatre, was originally commissioned to design a complex north of the Shell Tower to include a theatre on the west side and an opera house to the east.

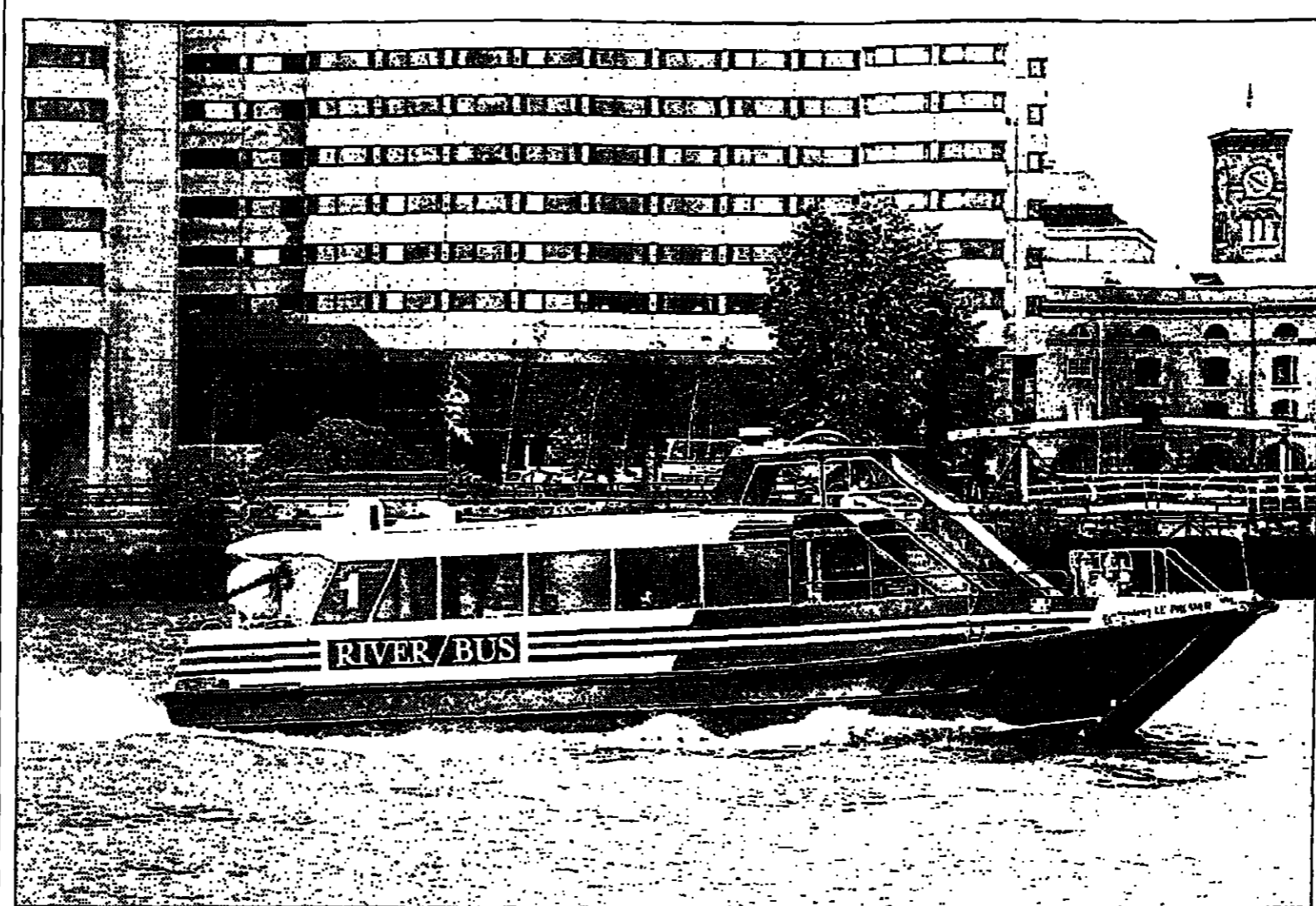
The idea has been revived because of a growing belief that the only feasible way of satisfying a growing public demand for inexpensive op-

era seats is to start afresh, rather than to develop the Royal Opera House. A lottery, after all, paid for the Sydney Opera House.

The South Bank opera house could have two auditoria, receiving touring companies and providing a home for resident national companies. For it to work, there would have to be a subsidy of 60 per cent of costs, instead of the 40 per cent Covent Garden receives. The present £200 million South Bank development scheme would almost certainly be scrapped.

In spite of English National Opera's recent acquisition of the Coliseum, thanks to a £10.8 million government grant, the company's move to the South Bank would free the theatre to become the national dance house.

Not only does the Tate Gallery want to increase its space, but the British Museum also wants to fill in the area left by the British Library and increase its own space by 40 per cent at a cost of £80 million.



Picking up speed: after an expensive launch in 1988, the Riverbus has now reached a critical momentum. Demand is up 170 per cent

Ailing Riverbus heads for new ownership

CONFIDENTIAL talks aimed at disposing of the Riverbus, London's ailing waterborne commuter and passenger service, are expected to lead to a new owner by July, it was disclosed yesterday.

Negotiations are in progress with a number of interested parties over the long-term future of the Riverbus, which was thrown into doubt when Olympia & York, the Canary Wharf developer, and part owner of the Riverbus with P&O, went into administration in May.

Use of the Riverbus has increased substantially in recent months, due to greater efforts to market the service, and the desire of

London tourists to see the Docklands' obelisk. Demand is up 170 per cent on last year, and the Riverbus expects to carry one million passengers in 1992, although the company is still likely to run at a substantial loss.

The high-speed service, which runs between Chelsea and Docklands, was originally launched by Paul Channon, the former transport secretary, in June 1988, after 1,700 investors raised £4.5 million to start the service under the Business Expansion Scheme. But commuter indifference soon made predictions that Londoners would use the Riverbus with the same casual nonchalance as Venetians use the *vaporetto* seem

The Riverbus has fallen far short of being London's answer to Venice's *vaporetto*, reports Michael Dynes

somewhat far-fetched. Financial collapse was averted in February 1989 after a group of Docklands property developers, including Olympia & York, Charter Group, Regalian Properties, Rosehaugh Stanhope, and Chelsea Harbour, put up £2.5 million to rescue the service.

The government also contributed £500,000 towards the new Riverbus

partnership. Olympia & York and P&O, the Chelsea Harbour developer, are the only members of the 1989 property partnership to have retained their interest in the Riverbus, which now operates 11 boats and nine piers, including three new stops at Cadogan Pier, Chelsea, St Katherine's Dock, Tower Bridge, and Canary Wharf in Docklands.

In spite of uncertainty hanging over the Riverbus operation, managers are confident that the service will survive. "Nothing compares with the Riverbus. It is the most divilised way to get to work in London," a spokesman said. High capital costs made the Riverbus, which now employs about

80 people, an expensive operation to launch. But it has just about reached critical momentum, he added.

According to Bob Aspinall, the librarian at the Museum of London, the Riverbus service represents the fourth attempt to launch a river-borne commuter service since the second world war.

The Water Bus service, which began in 1948, lasted until 1962 before being shut down after incurring substantial losses. Similarly, a Hovercraft service, launched in 1973, failed to last a single season, while a Hydrofoil service, established in 1974, went out of business two years later, for the same reasons.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Student stole £40,000

The former treasurer of the Oxford Polytechnic students' union, who stole £40,000 of union money, saying it was a golden handshake for saving the union money, was jailed for two and a half years yesterday.

A jury at Oxford Crown Court was told that Paul Edward Crossland, 25, of Canterbury, Kent, made out a cheque for £5 to a fellow student in 1989 and then altered the sum to £40,005 before paying it into a fictitious account. He then withdrew £37,000 in cash and flew to France.

Crossland was found guilty of theft and forgery and ordered to pay £6,000 compensation.

Green fingers

One gardener in two is giving up the use of weedkillers and other chemicals, according to a survey by the magazine *Gardening from Which?* One in five has abandoned garden chemicals altogether. More than 2,000 gardeners took part in the survey.

Good tidings

A policeman arrested an alleged shoplifter after chasing him into the sea at Llandudno, Gwynedd. After the tide went out a clock was found on the beach.

Nissan charge

Tore Arne Thorsen, 52, a Norwegian shipping magnate, has been sent for trial to Southwark Crown Court by Tessaide magistrates, accused of a £100 million fraud over car imports by Nissan UK.

Unlucky escape

A prisoner who was one of six who escaped from Everthorpe jail, Humberside, had to be rescued by helicopter after he fell down a railway embankment and injured his leg and hip. All six have been recaptured.

Streuth! Mercury have just come up with a bonzer new breakthrough idea. Until September 30th Residential customers can get 50% off the basic cost of Mercury calls from the UK to Australia between 730pm and midnight, any day of the week. That works out at less than 40p* a minute, so you can have a good five minute chinwag for under £2.

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Yeltsin manages to eclipse Gorbachev

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

IN an astounding summit success, Boris Yeltsin has broken out from behind the shadow of Mikhail Gorbachev and convinced the American administration of his legitimacy and international stature. The Russian leader made possible the most far-reaching superpower arms reduction agreement in an exchange with America that far exceeded expectations.

If the 1990 address to Congress by President Havel of Czechoslovakia was a success, Mr Yeltsin's speech on Tuesday was a sensation. "One of the finest speeches I've ever heard," said Joseph Kennedy, a Democrat. "He had every one in the palm of his hand," said Jerry Lewis, a Republican. Thirteen times congress-

men rose from their seats to cheer Mr Yeltsin. The decorous House chamber rang to spontaneous chants of "Boris, Boris".

It was a triumphant climax to an astounding inaugural summit. Mr Yeltsin not only made possible the most sweeping arms reduction accord of the nuclear age, he broke from the shadow of Mr Gorbachev, the administration's past favourite, and established himself as an international figure of immense legitimacy and stature.

Once derided by Washington's political elite as a buffoon and hard-drinking boor, Mr Yeltsin was hailed by American commentators yesterday as a "master statesman", a "risktaker" of enor-

mous dimensions" and "one of the most important and heroic figures in Russian history". President Bush, his electoral fortunes rising by the minute, appeared bowled over.

Deliberately or otherwise, Mr Yeltsin managed to make Mr Gorbachev, his old nemesis, look distinctly shady. Mr Gorbachev spoke of reforming communism. Mr Yeltsin of destroying it. While Mr Gorbachev flirted with democracy and free-market economics, the Russian president boasted of giant steps already taken. Mr Gorbachev advocated glasnost, but dark secrets of the Soviet era tumbled from Mr Yeltsin. "There will be no more lies, ever," he declared.

In a stunning blow to Mr Gorbachev's good name, Mr Yeltsin insisted that the last Soviet president knew full well that American servicemen had been held in Soviet prison camps. "I am not responsible for him," snapped the Russian president when asked to explain Mr Gorbachev's alleged duplicity.

The goodwill Mr Yeltsin engendered in Washington is unquantifiable, but seems bound to translate into concrete rewards. He has essentially traded nuclear arms for dollars, billions of them.

He made such an impression on Mr Bush, Congress and the general public that congressional passage of an American aid package for Russia now looks far more likely, even in an election year. Mr Bush promised to put pressure on the International Monetary Fund to stop quibbling about details of Russia's economic reform plan and speedily to free up a \$24 billion (£13 billion) Western aid package.

Saying the \$24 billion would pave the way for hundreds of billions of dollars in private sector investments, Mr Yeltsin and Mr Bush signed a package of commercial agreements to facilitate such investments. Mr Yeltsin will also go home with most favoured nation trading status for his country.

Possibly the biggest danger for Mr Yeltsin is that he was far too successful in persuading Washington that Russia was now its friend. Why pay to reform a country that no longer poses a threat?

Just how far Mr Yeltsin and Mr Bush carried the new US-Russian partnership this week became strikingly apparent during their Wednesday afternoon cruise on Chesapeake Bay, on a boat seized from drug dealers and converted. On board with them was the military officer carrying the "nuclear football". He looked an utter anachronism.

Joint peace force, page 1



Writing history: President Bush conferring with President Yeltsin at the signing in the White House on Wednesday of the landmark agreement to destroy thousands of nuclear weapons. The two leaders also signed bilateral economic and scientific accords

Border controls go up in Baltic states

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN TALLINN

NEAR Medininkai, on the Lithuanian side of the border with Belarus, there are two shiny portable cabins, a couple of blue-uniformed border guards and two brown-suited customs officials who examine the boot of your car for such unauthorised exports as food. Behind the first cabin there is also a tiny flowerbed with a wooden cross, a memorial to the five border guards murdered there last July.

Nobody has been charged with their deaths, but it is widely believed by Lithuanians that their killing was a last attempt by Soviet special troops to intimidate Lithuania.



nia. Only a little later, in August, the coup in Moscow made Baltic independence inevitable. Medininkai, although not the first border post, became a symbol of the Baltic determination to regain their statehood.

Now Lithuania claims to have control of its whole state border except, and it is a big except, for the sea lanes and air corridors forming part of the continuing dispute with Russia about troop withdrawals. For anyone arriving and departing by air, however, the only border formality is an outgoing customs check.

Latvia gives every appearance of taking border controls more seriously. If you are non-Russian starting from

Moscow, you need a visa to get there. In practice, however, there was nobody at Riga airport around midnight to process the delayed flight from Moscow.

Control along Latvia's land border with Estonia seems similarly half-hearted. A group of young men, dressed in what could just pass for a uniform, with baseball caps on their heads, slouched around a road block waiting for customs.

But, across a short man's land, the Estonian frontier presents quite a different picture, resembling a mini-Checkpoint Charlie, with lights, barriers and a narrow zig-zag roadway.

Tallinn airport, too, reveals that Estonia is ahead in the frontier stakes, which is not good news for Russians. Once their battered cases and boxes have been through the two x-ray machines in 10 yards (more food checks), they find themselves effectively "abroad", and therefore penniless. In Estonia proper their troubles have been legal tender. In the "international departure lounge" at the airport, however, everything is priced in Deutschmarks. The humiliation is most likely deliberate, a last little jab at the nation that enslaved them.

Moscow, to the chagrin of the arriving Balts, has not yet changed its ways. Anyone who steps off a flight from the Baltic has completed an internal flight. There are no border checks, no passport controls and no customs. The Russians, it seems, can still not bring themselves to acknowledge that the Baltic states are no longer "theirs", and their airport formalities reflect this. But how the Balts wish they did not.

CBS names 'Deep Throat'

BY MARTIN FLETCHER

CARL Bernstein calls it the "one great secret in the whole world": who was Deep Throat, the government source who gave invaluable leads to Bob Woodward, Mr Bernstein's colleague on *The Washington Post* when the two reporters investigated the Watergate scandal?

On Wednesday night, the 20th anniversary of the break-in at the Democrats' headquarters that led to President Nixon's resignation, CBS television provided an answer. In interviews for a documentary Messrs Woodward and Bernstein denied claims that Deep Throat was a composite of several sources and said he was still alive.

CBS scoured the book, *All The President's Men*, and the journalists' other writings for clues. Using published dates of the meetings with Deep Throat, CBS eliminated three prime suspects. Al Haig, the former White House chief of staff, Henry Kissinger, then national security adviser, and Melvin Laird, then defence secretary. All were out of the country on at least one of those occasions.

The nature of Deep Throat's tips has pointed to the FBI, which was pursuing its own Watergate investigation. Mr Nixon once accused Mark Felt, the FBI's deputy director, of being Deep Throat. Accused by CBS, Mr Felt denied the charge and pointed out that he had given up smoking in 1943. According to Mr Woodward, the source he met in the celebrated underground car park was a chain smoker.

"There is one person we have come to believe best fits the description of Deep Throat," said CBS, and it

named Patrick Gray, a former assistant attorney-general who was appointed acting director of the FBI just before the Watergate break-in.

The documentary said Mr Gray "started out as a Nixon loyalist" but became "increasingly disgusted" as he was dragged into Watergate and "came to loathe dealing with all the president's men".

Another mystery about Deep Throat was how a government official could have managed such lengthy, clandestine meetings in the middle of the night. Mr Gray lived in a flat in a building with an underground car

park just four blocks from Mr Woodward's flat. He jogged before dawn, which would have enabled him to mark Mr Woodward's newspaper in one of their pre-arranged signals for a meeting. He could easily have driven to work past Mr Woodward's flat to check if the reporter had moved his balcony flower pot, the other signal.

Now 76, Mr Gray lives in Connecticut, has an unlisted telephone number, and has not spoken publicly about his role in the case for 20 years. His lawyer denied he was Deep Throat, but Mr Gray has made no comment.

Former Soviet major claims PoWs went to Kazakhstan

Fresh evidence is expected to emerge soon that American PoWs from Vietnam were held in the Soviet Union, Bruce Clark writes from Moscow

FRESH light could be shed next week on the acutely sensitive subject of American soldiers brought to the Soviet Union during the Vietnam war.

A Soviet army major and amateur historian who has gathered information about one or more American soldiers being moved to Kazakhstan in 1967 will be summoned to Moscow to testify before a parliamentary committee on prisoners on war. The major, 32, now serving in Yakutsk, is understood to have spoken to a KGB officer who recalled escorting at least one American POW from Vietnam to Soviet Central Asia.

However, the young officer, fearful of compromising his own career prospects, has refused to make further details of the story, or his own name, public unless invited to do so by an official body. That invitation will be dispatched today in the form of a cable from Yuri Smirnov, a Russian parliamentarian.

Several members of a joint

US-Russian commission on PoWs flew yesterday to Pechora, 750 miles northeast of Moscow, to investigate the possibility that David Markin, an American pilot captured during the Korean war, is still alive. Foreign ministry officials said the trip had been planned before President Yeltsin's comments in Washington about the possibility that American PoWs were still living in Russia, although the visit appeared to have been hastily organised.

When the investigators arrived at the remote camp, home to 200 prisoners, they found only freshly painted walls and assurances from both officials and inmates that there were not and never had been any Americans there. Major General Leonid Khamluk, who is responsible

and February 7, 1974. This suggests that the dispatch of KGB interrogators continued after the Paris peace treaty of January 1973 and the exchange of prisoners the following month.

However, part of each document remains classified, so the precise purpose of the trips by Colonel Nechiporenko, who is now retired and denies having been sent to Vietnam, is still unclear. Other documents obtained by Mr Pankov, referring to the equally sensitive subject of Western soldiers "liberated" from the Nazis by the advancing Red Army and then taken into Soviet custody, suggest that all but a handful were freed in the course of 1946.

A report to the Red Army command from an official "reparation committee" states that as of March 1, 1946 there were eight Americans, three Britons, 636 Dutch and 1,224 French among the 4,867 foreign nationals who were still in Soviet hands. A second document, dated December 1, 1946, asserts that all but one of the 22,555 American PoWs had passed through Soviet hands, and all 24,451 of the Britons, had since been repatriated.

This left only 134 foreigners, mostly Czechoslovaks and Yugoslavs, still captive. Of these, just 21 — including



Kalugin: KGB agents questioned prisoners

two Frenchmen but not the solitary American — were on Soviet soil; the others were presumably held in barracks in Poland or Germany.

Mr Pankov cautions that the Soviet authorities tended to classify prisoners by ethnic group rather than by passport. Hence a US citizen of Russian or Ukrainian origin — precisely the kind of person likely to be subjected to long-term detention — might not be listed as an American.

Lacklustre Shamir style sends supporters to sleep

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN BAT YAM, ISRAEL

WHEN Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli prime minister, stepped gingerly from his limousine onto the pavement of this Tel Aviv suburb, he may have expected the sort of rousing reception that has so far been lacking in his other campaign appearances.

Not only is the working-class community of Bat Yam made up of the archetypal Likud supporters, many of them underprivileged Sephardi (oriental) Jews who emigrated from North Africa, but its own recent tragic history should have made it doubly eager to embrace the standard-bearer of the Israeli right wing.

Only yards from where Mr Shamir was due to speak stood the pavement memorial of Israeli flags and withered flowers left by residents in tribute to Helena Rapp, 15, who was stabbed to death by a Palestinian labourer this month in an attack which helped to refocus next week's elections on the central question of Israel's security. The unprecedented streets riots

which erupted in Bat Yam after the murder should have played right into the hands of the ruling Likud and its right-wing allies, who have vowed to eliminate Palestinian resistance to Israeli rule in the occupied territories.

The build-up to Mr Shamir's speech on Wednesday was certainly intended to concentrate people's minds on the need for four more years of a no-nonsense leadership headed by the tough former underground leader, who shows no signs of firing his job at the age of 76. "He is the only leader in the country who stood beside me during the tragedy of Helena's murder," Ehud Kinamon, Bat Yam's mayor, said.

To show that the Israeli leader had a heart, immigrant girls were led onto the stage with flowers for the grandfatherly figure, with one Ethiopian infant reaching up to the microphone to say: "Mr Prime Minister, thank you for bringing me to Israel. I hope you will continue to perform wonders." Up

until that moment, no one could have faulted the Likud campaign strategists, until Mr Shamir began his discourse hailing the achievements of his administration in a labourious hour-long address, which put some supporters to sleep. Mr Shamir time and again during this campaign has failed to arouse the passions of an often emotional electorate. "If we had Menachem Begin speaking here tonight we would have 300,000 people instead of 300," a lifelong Likud supporter said. Like many Israelis, he regarded the country's present leadership as a pale and unimaginative imitation of the man who not only bombed Iraq and invaded Lebanon but also succeeded in making peace with Egypt.

While Mr Shamir has shown himself to be unflappable during the campaign he can never hope to emulate Mr Begin's populist image and oratory, the sort of political attributes which could be vital in winning over an apathetic electorate.

Police press for boycott of Batman film over Cop Killer song

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN NEW YORK



Taking the rap: Ice-T, whose hit has been accused of inciting young people to murder

New York police yesterday called on the public to boycott the film *Batman Returns*, which opens in America today, in protest against a rap song which they say incites young people to murder policemen.

The companies that produced *Batman Returns*, starring Michael Keaton, Michelle Pfeiffer and Danny DeVito, and the song *Cop Killer* by rapper Ice-T and his band Body Count are owned by Time Warner Inc. Police in New York state and Texas have called for a boycott of all Time Warner products until the album is removed from shops. Police say the song, which includes such lyrics as "I'm about to dust some cops off. Die, pig, die," encourages and glorifies killing police.

Peter Kehoe, head of the New York sheriffs group, said: "As a direct result of this song, cops will be killed during the upcoming hot summer months while Time Warner executives sit beside their swimming pools... enjoying their ill-gotten gains." The company is defending the song on the ground of freedom of expression.

The film of *Batman Returns* has itself been criticised for allegedly glorifying violence. At one point in the film, Danny DeVito, who plays the Penguin, is heard to say: "Burn, baby, burn," as Gotham City goes up in flames — a phrase which emerged from the Watts race riots of 1965.

Rap musicians and their supporters have come into

increasing conflict with the white establishment in recent weeks. Last Saturday, in a speech to the Rev Jesse Jackson's Rainbow Coalition, Bill Clinton, the Democratic candidate, criticised another rap singer, Sister Souljah, for what he claimed were racist remarks. He cited a newspaper interview in which Sister Souljah had said: "If black people kill black people every day, why not have a week and kill white people?"

Mr Clinton was immediately attacked for singling out a black individual in his remarks, in what some said was an attempt to appeal for white votes. At a press conference in New York on Tuesday, Sister Souljah said that Mr Clinton had "chosen not to at-

tack the issues, but a young African woman". She said her remarks had been intended to describe the attitude of young American blacks and that she did not advocate killing anyone.

Sister Souljah has in the past used rap lyrics suggesting a violent solution to the problems of black urban poverty and disillusion. In her song, *The Hate That Hate Produced*, she says: "I am black first. I want what's good for me and my people. And if my survival means your total destruction, then so be it, you built this wicked system."

Mr Clinton defended his criticism of Sister Souljah on MTV television's young people's forum channel on Tuesday night. He said: "It is never right, ever — partic-

ularly for people of influence — to say there are no good people of another race, that maybe all the blacks should go kill whites for a change." He said he had received calls from a number of blacks supporting his stand against Sister Souljah.

The heightening of tension between races comes at an inauspicious moment, particularly in New York, where black community leaders have pronounced today "a day of absence" in response to the Rodney King verdict in Los Angeles. Black New Yorkers are being urged to stay away from work, school, buses, subways, telephones and shops, and to boycott white-owned businesses to demonstrate the importance of blacks to the life of the city.

Belgium
Spain
defence
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Aid convoy
slips into
besieged
Sarajevo

Italians to

Belgium and Spain 'query defence force membership'

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

BELGIUM and Spain are now having second thoughts about joining the Franco-German "Eurocorps", according to senior British government sources.

Both countries had indicated an interest in joining the new force which was announced by President Mitterrand of France and Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, at a summit last month. However, Spain has now been won over by the British argument that a future European defence force should be based on the nine-nation Western European Union, with each member country offering units for peacekeeping or peacekeeping roles.

Under the British proposal,

put forward recently by Malcolm Rifkind, the defence secretary, the Franco-German force could be one of these designated units. The proposal was aimed at stalling any rush by other WEU members to join the Eurocorps, yet at the same time to place the new body under the aegis of the WEU. According to the sources, Belgium has told Britain it does not want to be the only other country to join the Franco-German force.

Since Mr Rifkind's initiative, Pierre Joxe, the French defence minister, confirmed that the Eurocorps would be available for WEU operations. The WEU is likely to take on an expanded role at a meeting in Bonn today when foreign and defence ministers from its nine member states are expected to approve its peacekeeping role. European countries who are not members of the WEU will also be offered full or associate membership to bring all of Europe under the same defence and security wing.

The nine countries which are already members — which include Britain, France and Germany — will be asked to designate certain units for WEU operations. Units such as the existing Anglo-Dutch amphibious force, and the proposed multinational air mobile force (Britain, Germany, The Netherlands, and Belgium) which will be part of the new Nato rapid reaction corps, will be offered to the WEU.

A senior British official admitted yesterday that there would be a "pecking order" among the different organisations offering their peacekeeping services, with Nato likely to take on the grander operations.

The meeting in Bonn will be the most important since the Maastricht summit when EC leaders agreed that, in the search for a common European defence policy, the WEU should represent Europe's security views. The "no" vote in the Danish referendum and the uncertainty over the Maastricht treaty does not affect the WEU, which has its own treaty.

A British official admitted there remained a "tug-of-war" between those, such as France, who wanted the European defence arm to come under the wing of the EC, and others, such as Britain, who preferred the institutional link to be with the WEU.

● **Missile plan:** The British government is now "actively considering" the cost-effectiveness of developing a limited ballistic missile defence system, as an offshoot to the American GPALS (global protection against limited strikes) concept.

Aid convoy slips into besieged Sarajevo

FROM MARK HEINRICH IN BELGRADE

A UNITED Nations peacekeeping convoy trapped for 36 hours by fighting outside Sarajevo reached the city centre safely yesterday with 15 tonnes of food and medical aid for starving civilians.

But the peacekeepers' mission to help prepare for an airlift of aid to 300,000 inhabitants of the Bosnian capital was impaired by the collapse of a truce between Serbian and Muslim and Croatian militiamen.

The convoy had set out from Belgrade on Tuesday,



24 hours into the precarious ceasefire, but had to race for cover behind Serbian lines on Sarajevo's outskirts when shelling broke out again that night. Fierce fighting on Wednesday confined the 47-vehicle convoy in Lukavica, outside the city. But it slipped into Sarajevo yesterday after winning safe passage.

Aboard the convoy were food and medical kits, the first UN relief supplies to reach Sarajevo since the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) evacuated its staff last month after Serbian attacks on the operations.

Two UNHCR representatives returned to Sarajevo with the convoy and will try to set up a distribution network with local charitable agencies for all three ethnic communities, Laurence Jolles, a UNHCR spokesman said.

There were scattered artillery duels and street battles in Sarajevo yesterday. The UN has now put off plans to take charge of Sarajevo's airfield from Serb irregulars with a Canadian contingent to allow relief flights to the blockaded capital. (Reuters)

Letters, page 15

Italians to taste Dr Subtle's medicine

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

Giuliano Amato, the Socialist intellectual nicknamed Dr Subtle by his kinder colleagues, became Italian prime minister-designate yesterday. He acknowledged that his reputation for finesse would be tested as he tries to form a credible government.

"It will be a ship in a stormy sea," Signor Amato, 54, said after receiving the mandate from President Scalfaro to try to put together the 51st Italian government. He said the "crucial points" of the programme he plans would be dealing with the huge public expenditure deficit, the struggle against organised crime, promoting morality in public life, and institutional reforms. "I am aware of the great difficulties."

Only a convincing programme of reforms is likely to win Signor Amato crucial

support from the opposition Republicans and former communist Democratic Party of the Left, commentators said. Opposition leaders were sceptical whether the deputy Socialist Party leader would produce anything other than a reshuffled version of the coalition led by the outgoing prime minister, Giulio Andreotti, that was made up of Christian Democrats, Socialists, Liberals and Social Democrats.

President Scalfaro has told Signor Amato he should try to construct a cabinet reflecting the massive protest vote in favour of change cast by Italians against traditional parties in the April 5 and 6 general election. But the Christian Democrats and Socialists are reluctant to relinquish power.

Corriere della Sera yesterday said Signor Amato "is perhaps the Italian politician who has collected the

most nicknames, nearly all of them malevolent, nearly all coined by comrades from his party who do not like him too much" because of his rapid rise to influence. The only sobriquet of which he approves, the Milan daily said, is that of Dottore Sottile (Dr Subtle) attributed to him because of his reputation for smooth behind-the-scenes manoeuvres.

Signor Amato also enjoys a reputation for ruthlessness combined with a zealous honesty. La Repubblica likened him to Saint Just, the ideologue of the reign of terror during the French revolution.

He was sent to Milan earlier this year to clean up the local party branch after the eruption of a huge bribery scandal that indirectly touched the party secretary, Bettino Craxi. Critics said the purge initiated by

Signor Amato was largely symbolic. His closeness to Signor Craxi, who dropped out of the running for the prime ministership, could be a handicap in his search for a broadly based government, political experts said. Signor Amato served as cabinet undersecretary during the Craxi government in the mid-1980s. Jealous colleagues sometimes compare him to Cesarino Rossi, the ruthless personal secretary of Mussolini, Corriere della Sera noted.

Signor Amato is married with two children and speaks fluent English that he perfected while studying in America. His only known hobby is tennis, which he likes to play each Sunday. Last night he indicated that he hopes to tell President Scalfaro by tomorrow that he is ready to form a government so as not to spoil his weekend.



Brew num: a Franciscan enjoying a beer at the opening of the 91st German Catholics' Day, held on the feast of Corpus Christi, in Karlsruhe yesterday

Danish effect eases way for Britain in Brussels

FROM GEORGE BROCK IN BRUSSELS

WHATEVER the results of yesterday's vote in Ireland on the Maastricht treaty, the European Community is being temporarily transformed by the impact of the Danish rejection of the proposals for political and economic union. Among other striking changes, the "Danish effect" is easing several of the British government's toughest problems in Brussels.

A report on Britain's EC budget rebate has been ready for two months inside the European Commission but now seems unlikely to appear before next month. Jacques Delors, the president of the commission, delayed the report at John Major's request shortly before the British general election in April.

Now Mr Delors and other commission officials are trying to avoid rows with governments that might spoil the treaty's chances of ratification, and are looking for a politically quiet moment to release the report. "We're a bit hamstrung about what is tactically the best moment," said one official yesterday.

The report is likely to turn out to be a relatively neutral description of the workings of the discount which Britain

was allowed in the budget deal of 1988. On average, the rebate cuts Britain's £3 billion share of EC revenue to £2 billion each year. German ministers, representing the only EC government which pays in more than Britain, and suffering economic troubles, have served notice that they want to reopen the issue of Britain's payments. But given the importance of the Maastricht treaty being ratified in the Commons, and Britain's veto over any changes to the rebate, little change seems likely.

A similar reticence has seized the Commission over the divisive question of EC enlargement. Leaks from Mr Delors' entourage about his thinking on the long-term structure of a larger EC went wrong when they became an issue in the Danish referendum campaign. Since the Commission leaks confidential documents almost every day, the commissioners are now wary of writing anything down: they have decided henceforth to report to ministers on enlargement by discussing it with them in meetings. The reports will avoid controversy and constitutional change will barely be broached.

Although the Danish vote may have suppressed risky thinking in Brussels, it has opened new lines of argument elsewhere in the Community. Political establishments are waking up to the unpleasant knowledge that their claims about the vital importance of European unification are no longer accepted at face value. Nowhere does that sear and pattern more than in the Maastricht treaty than in France.

Letters, page 15

Czechoslovak leaders play high-risk game

Czech and Slovak antagonists have decided to rely on poker-style brinkmanship, Roger Boyes writes

Czechs and Slovaks are slaloming towards divorce. The two political power brokers — Vaclav Klaus, the Czech, and Vladimir Meciar, the Slovak — have refused to commit themselves to a significant federal government and both seem to regard it as a mere liquidation committee to divide the assets of the 73-year-old country.

Mr Klaus, rather than head a meaningless federal government, will seek the premiership of the Czech lands. Mr Meciar is virtually assured of the premiership of Slovakia.

The problem is determining how much of this is brinkmanship and tactical manoeuvre. On the surface, Mr Klaus appears to be particularly tough: his line is that if the federation cannot be saved then it must part soon. He has been deliberately stepping up the pace of negotiations, hoping the prospect of a sudden end to federal subsidies will jolt the Slovaks and sway them against independence when it comes to a referendum on the issue.

That approach has probably been co-ordinated with President Havel, who has maintained for over a year that most Slovaks do not want independence and that popular grievances are being exploited by Mr Meciar and the nationalists. The point of the talks so far has been to send alarm signals to ordinary Slovaks.

Mr Meciar is also playing a tactical game. He has set out a timetable for secession — a declaration of sovereignty by the new Slovak parliament, a Slovak constitution, a referendum on independence and finally a deal with the Czechs. He has put forward a concrete proposal: Czechs and Slovaks should have two separate states bound by economic and defence agreements.

Mr Klaus believes the Slovaks are trying to have their cake and eat it: independence, but with subsidies for Slovak steel mills, the arms industry and the army units that are stationed on Slovakia's eastern frontiers.

All this poker play may be merely a ploy to a shift in the power balance between Czechs and Slovaks within the federation, or a future confederation. That is, the country could still stop short of divorce. It depends on how well the issue is managed. Mr Meciar threatens independence but may only be seeking full control of economic and social policy. Mr Klaus threatens to permit independence but only to remind Slovaks of the costs. Yet both men are nervous about going the whole way since to split Czechoslovakia is to rip the post-1918 map of Central Europe.

To avoid divorce in Czechoslovakia there needs to be a change in popular mood, not so much in Slovakia as in the Czech lands. The Czechs remain convinced that Slovakia had a good deal from the unitary state and Prague has not really come to grips with the real grievances in Bratislava. The popular view in Prague is that Mr Meciar is trying to blackmail the Czechs. But Slovaks, saddled with unremediable heavy industry, are genuine victims of a market reform that has benefited mainly the Czechs.

The Czechs may be right that Mr Meciar does not have a popular mandate for full independence, but Slovaks have charged him with the task of fundamentally reorganising the Czechoslovak federation. Mr Meciar is not particularly loved by the Slovaks but they do regard him as the man most likely to drive a hard bargain. If the Czechs want to keep Czechoslovakia together they must first recognise that Slovaks have been disadvantaged for decades.

NEWS IN BRIEF

UN hopes for accord on Cyprus

New York: The United Nations yesterday began a fresh attempt to end the 18-year division of Cyprus, with Western diplomats hopeful that agreement can be reached on the creation of a bi-zonal federation with a rotating presidency. James Bone writes.

Boutros Boutros Ghali, the UN secretary-general, held separate meetings yesterday with George Vassiliou, president of the internationally recognised Greek Cypriot state in the island's south, and Raul Denktash, leader of the Turkish Cypriot community in the north. Diplomats said the UN chief hoped to persuade them to meet next week for the first time in more than two years to work out a "framework" agreement.

Office bombed

Bastia: A bomb wrecked the office of a security company which had inspected a Corsican soccer stadium stand that collapsed last month, killing 15 fans. The local company director has been charged with manslaughter. (Reuters)

Pilot killed

Athens: A Greek air force pilot was killed when his Mirage F1 jet fighter crashed in the sea while trying to intercept a pair of Turkish F16 jets that had entered Greek air space, the air force announced. (AP)

Kurds arrested

Rouen: Police entered a church in Rouen and arrested 10 Kurds who had been on hunger strike for 35 days demanding political asylum in France. Witnesses said that there were some scuffles but no injuries. (AFP)

Poll date set

Taipei: Taiwan will hold a general election on December 19. The poll will be the first time the Nationalists have risked losing control of the legislature since fleeing in 1949. (Reuters)

Chief pardoned

Wellington: Mokomoko, a chief of the Whakatohe tribe, has been pardoned 126 years after he was hanged for the murder of Carl Volkner, a Dutch Anglican missionary whom the Maoris suspected of spying for Britain.

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John Major's missing millions

The prime minister's toughest test will be to cut spending, says Peter Riddell

When Norman Lamont put on the mantle of Stafford Cripps this week to stress how tight the review of public spending will be, it was not just the usual Treasury exercise in summer gloom to soften up the rest of Whitehall. This year is different. Ministers know that if they cannot bring public finances under control immediately after an election, they never will. More than that, Europe, the spending round will be the test of what John Major does with Mrs Thatcher's legacy.

Public borrowing has soared over the past two years, to at least £28 billion, well above the European monetary guidelines. In contrast to the early 1980s, the government has decided to allow the impact of the recession to show-up in higher borrowing. But the cabinet also agreed big increases in spending unrelated to the recession, notably on health and transport. Before the election, ministers had the guilty air of slimmers sneaking a potato and claiming it did not matter because they had kept to their diet before and would be disciplined in future.

Now the reckoning has arrived. The economy is recovering even more slowly than expected, further increasing borrowing. That makes less plausible any hopes that the budget will return to balance over the medium term or of a reversal of the rise in spending as a share of national income, from 39.5 in 1989 to more than 43 per cent. Mr Lamont has said: "no responsible government can allow recession to become an excuse for a permanent expansion in the proportion of the nation's wealth spent by the state. The growth of public expenditure cannot be divorced from the real growth of the economy, in bad times as well as good."

Mr Major has given the cabinet a homily on the need for restraint, and Michael Portillo, the chief secretary, who is reckoned to be hard-working as well as clever, had talks with departments before they put in their spending bids. So far these discussions have made little impression. In the Whitehall village, no ministers, especially those new to their departments as most are, want to be seen as giving ground to the Treasury at this stage. Existing plans for next year contain a reserve of £8 billion, but much may be absorbed by the extra costs of the recession and of easing the transition from the poll tax to the council tax.

Mr Major and the Treasury team are like characters in *Alice*, stumbling through a maze to be confronted with signs saying "hands off — manifesto pledge", "statutory commitment" or "political priority". Within the £70 billion social security budget, there has been talk of focusing benefits on the needy. But much of the programme is demand-led by the number of pensioners and the unemployed. The Tories have promised to raise the value of retirement pensions and child

A WEEK IN POLITICS

benefit each year in line with inflation. In other cases, preventing abuses would require controversial legislation. There will be no repetition of last year's big rise in the health budget, although the Tory manifesto promised a year by year increase in real resources committed to the NHS.

Even reform is expensive. Encouraging more schools to opt out of local authority control adds to costs. Short-term pressures are also increased by the targets for cutting hospital waiting-lists and compensation schemes for delays in services, as enshrined in the Citizen's Charter, which is due to be reviewed at a Downing Street seminar today. Improving public services is not cheap, although contracting-out should produce long-term savings.

The Treasury always has its list of potential cuts, such as defence, transport and training. Whitehall running costs — mainly pay — may also be squeezed, although this yields less when inflation is already low. Tax reliefs on mortgages and pensions offer large potential savings, but are hard to tackle given the current state of the housing market.

To reverse the rise in borrowing, Mr Lamont may have to look to taxes: not raising tax allowances in line with inflation, or broadening the indirect tax base. This is the last year when both sides of the equation are decided separately, for in a welcome announcement in the Budget, Mr Lamont said that from December 1993 tax and spending plans would be presented together.

None of the choices is easy. Departmental interests will matter more than the ideology of ministers. Thus so-called Thatcherite ministers such as Michael Howard and Peter Lilley, who head vast spending departments, will be trying mainly to contain unavoidable increases in spending, whereas Michael Heseltine, despite his more interventionist reputation, has already lowered expectations by saying he is not seeking "any significant change" in trade and industry spending. Even with the addition of energy, his department's budget is less than that for overseas development. He is likely to tinker and repack some programmes.

The outcome will finally depend on Mr Major himself. As prime minister, he has so far sought not to offend, and to please as many groups as possible. But he must accept some unpopularity now if public finances are to be put in order. The twin strands of his career have been the Treasury minister's preference for sound finance, and the whip's instincts for conciliation. This summer he needs to think as a Treasury man rather than as a whip.

Matthew d'Ancona wonders if a change of name will really bring polytechnics university status

Donnish delusions

an empire is in political history," he wrote in *The Idea of a University* (1852), "such is a university in the sphere of philosophy and research. It is... the high protecting power of all knowledge and science, of fact and principle, of inquiry and discovery."

In Newman's humanistic vision, the role of the university was to train the mind of the governing classes and tend the intellectual soul of the nation. And that vision has kept its grip on the collective imagination. Why else would John Major be so sensitive about his lack of university education, or the Opposition leader below that he was the first Kinnock to graduate "in a thousand generations"?

Just as the polytechnics exemplify all that is modern, sleek and efficient, the universities have a mystique rooted in the dimly-remembered past. The bond of which Newman wrote between power and intellect is as old as the privileges granted to medieval

scholars by their rulers. For an ambitious family in the middle ages, setting up a dynastic university was de rigueur. Charles IV, a terrible show-off, shored up his imperial power in 1348 with the foundation of Prague University, which the rival Habsburgs soon matched in Vienna. Cosseted by the rich and famous, the universities developed their own agenda and authority, and even challenged the papacy head-on in the great 15th-century councils. Thus the continent of Europe was knitted together by its intellectual community. Measured against the power of the medieval schools, especially Oxford and Paris, Jacques Delors' ambitions for Europe are modest indeed.

Such pretensions to greatness die hard. In England, the ancient universities have from time to time taken on the authorities and won; and the glimmering array of politicians at the vice-chancellors' reception in Westminster last week

showed that the universities still have a finger's grip on the reins of power. With this archaic tradition, the polytechnics will struggle to compete.

The universities have glamour in spades, too. E.M. Forster struck a chord when he admitted that memories of Cambridge, his "dear old university", inspired in him only "snobbery or priggishness". Snooty tales of high-table rows, of Somerville girls battling against co-education, and of radical French philosophers opposed by crusty dons still go down a treat with the educated Englishman.

Provincial universities like Sussex, meanwhile, have discovered and cultivated a different kind of racism, an image of progressive affluence mythologised in a string of campus novels. There is always a redbrick in vogue which sixth-form poets will head for.

If a university were simply a worthy institution which dished out degrees and supervised re-

search, the task ahead of the poly would be easy. But the word carries much deeper resonances. Universities are expected by the nation to embody tradition, to flirt with church and state, to be oracular as well as expert. Such characteristics cannot be bolted on by legislation, however well-intentioned.

The polytechnics were supposed originally to provide an entirely new form of higher education, forging the technological infrastructure that British industry still lacks. Instead, they have slowly drifted into the academic territory of the university, quite unnecessarily relegating themselves to second-class status.

Now, in the vast pool of universities, they may come unstuck, stripped of their distinctiveness, struggling always to be something else. Ministers are already murmuring darkly that the polytechnics have absurd expectations of the research funds they are likely to win in the new educational marketplace. The great divide may be gone, but the hierarchy will soon reassert itself. The polytechnics may then ask themselves whether the fancy names were worth the bother.

Maxwell's young lions

What makes Ian and Kevin tick, wonders Peter Millar



er, also linked through to his father's, so it was also possible for Maxwell to retreat to it either to confer privately with his son during a meeting, or through it to gain access to his private life and escape the building, leaving his guests to stew until some flunky made appropriate excuses.

Maxwell's office at the other side of the octagonal tower, with a fine view over the gothic pinnacles of the law courts, a serene calm shattered twice daily by the clattering rotor blades of his father's helicopter landing on the roof a dozen feet above his head. Ian had a pair of his own

secretaries, in whom he inspired a loyalty that was to extend beyond disaster. When, after Robert Maxwell's death, the edifice started to collapse, there was a temporary lull as the sons won a breathing space from creditors: there was a marvellous view of relief from the younger Maxwell's staff, who, like their bosses, had sat around for years wondering when, if ever, they would come into the ogre's inheritance.

Yet in a year of working closely with the Maxwell family, I never saw signs of any feeling for their

father other than affection, albeit beneath an often palpable tension. When his father died, Ian certainly was deeply moved. Whatever cynics may say with hindsight, and whatever horrors have been uncovered about Robert Maxwell's business practices, his death left an enormous physical and psychological void in lives lived close to his overweening presence.

It was to escape that presence that his older children opted to live in the United States, a continent away and therefore at least out of bearhugging reach. In their father's lifetime, Ian and Kevin, for all the heir-apparent responsi-

bilities seemingly divested on to them, were inevitably thought to be waiting in the wings. They lived under a giant shadow, and who could tell which was the dauphin and which the Prince of Wales?

In the White Hart, the *Daily Mirror* drinking den, hardened hacks who caught a glimpse of Ian or Kevin entering Maxwell House opposite would tug a forelock and make Uriah Heep references to the "young master". The brothers occasionally glanced through the window, but they rarely ventured in; fraternisation — below a certain level — was frowned upon. Life as a Maxwell, under Bob, meant never being able to say "sorry". To those who dealt with him on a daily basis, Ian Maxwell's greatest sin was retelling his father's anecdotes and expecting — as Bob did — the same gust of laughter every time.

When Maxwell died and the theoretical division of the soon-to-vanish spoils allotted to Ian and Maxwell Communications to Kevin, Ian began signing letters "The Publisher" and appearing in his father's multicoloured bowties. It was as if the only way to exorcise the ghost was to emulate his fashion sense.

Ian had inherited more than Kevin of their father's gift for tongues. With a French mother it was unsurprising that most of the family professed bilingualism, though it was not always perfect. Ian, however, switched easily into and out of French, and was fond of dropping German phrases into conversations with those who understood them. Kevin, on the other hand, was shy about using other languages, preferring to pass on the role of toastmaster for a delegation from the German publisher, Bertelsmann Verlag, even though he had been involved in its part-purchase. His gift was for doing sums: Ian's was for shaking hands and speaking in tongues.

How far either will now serve them is in the hands of the courts. I am simply glad I never had to take a school report card home to their father.

Bernard Levin's column returns on Monday.



...and moreover ALAN COREN

The only time I lunched with the Queen, the first words she said to me were: "Have you any idea what a trial it is to own a golf course?" I do not remember what I mumbled, but I do remember reflecting that when it came to preemptive strikes, my sovereign left Admiral Yamamoto at the post. I had turned up at her palace with my conversational fleet dressed overall, there was not a potential pot I had not buffed to shimmering nick, there was not a drollery unprinted, but she had dived on me out of the sun, and her first wave had devastated me: my battleships were going down by the stern, my carriers were ablaze, and where my submarines had once lurked there were now but pitiable patches of flotsam-dotted oil.

She then launched, while the prawn hung trembling on my fork, into a hilarious account of the shenanigans at her Windsor links, where a demarcation dispute between groundsmen and gardeners had left the fairways unwoman. When she had finished, she asked my advice as to her best course of action. I put the prawn down and mumbled something else, drawn this time from my vast experience of owning golf courses, whereupon she said: "Was there an exact date when workmen stopped wearing boots? You never see boots on workmen any more."

The whole of let us call it our conversation, followed this bizarre unpattern, the monarch unfalteringly displaying a sur-

real penchant so relentlessly nimble it left the clothopper winded. It was like going ten rounds against a class flyweight trained by René Magritte and managed by P.G. Wodehouse. By the end of three hours, I had pledged my life to her. Here was weakness of an order so incomparable it must have been hers by divine right. She was barking regal.

Her husband? I had first met him some years before, when as Rector of St Andrews I attended the investiture of Magnus Magnusson as Rector of Edinburgh, where Prince Philip was Chancellor. We were all in the robing room, struggling into our floor-length velvet numbers, when the Consort suddenly cried: "If we were stark naked under these, nobody would be any the wiser!" He then laughed for a very long time.

It thus came as no surprise to me when, soon after, their son stopped doing Bluebottle impressions and began confiding in flora, leaving me with a conviction rendered all the more unshakable by the Princess Royal, who when I invited her to a Punch lunch and apologised for limping on a swollen knee, said: "Yes, it's been a ghastly year for equine VD. Did you know it can cause rheumatoid arthritis in jockeys? Everyone's taking phenylbutazone."

What am I trying to tell you here? Merely that I have been growing daily more irritated by demands for the Royal Family to shape up, remember who they are, and behave accordingly.

because my view is that is precisely what they are doing. They are a very odd lot, and they stand in a long and remarkably impressive line of highly peculiar figures of whom this country ought never to cease for one instant to be proud.

Hitherto, we have cherished them for this astonishing distinction, Edward II, Richard III, Henry VIII, Elizabeth I, Charles II, George III and IV, Edward VII and VIII — and I pick only the royal tree's fruitier plums, the ones we relish most for their egregious lusts and vagaries and misdemeanours, for even the dullest have had their moments, be it George V's terminal injunction to tigger Bognor, or that exercise of Victoria's remarkable libido which, indulging itself at Windsor, could rattle windows in Cardiff.

So why are we distressed now at what delighted us before? Whence this nonsense requiring the current lot to be moral exemplars and behavioural models, because if they won't, then it is all up with them? They have never been anything of the sort; what they have been is a collection of flaky English eccentrics beyond the dreams of Ealing Studios, as thankfully unlike their subjects as it is possible to be. Oh, yes, we may rightly tremble at the thought that we might find ourselves married to one, but candidates have had a thousand years to be warned, and if in doubt, Sellar and Yeatman are a quick and easy read.

Maxwell's immortality

IF the arrest of Ian and Kevin Maxwell yesterday sounded the death knell of a global empire, the family can find solace in the fact that their name still carries weight in academe. Balliol, the Oxford alma mater of Sir Edward Heath, Lord Jenkins and Bryan Gould, will continue to offer the Robert Maxwell Fellowship for politics in perpetuity.

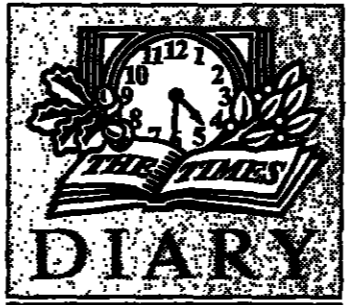
The fellowship, which was endowed by Maxwell in 1965 just a year after he became Labour member for Buckingham, has strong sentimental value for his catering department. Now, almost 25 years after the last Jeroboam was sold, the cellar is being re-stocked.

Colin Shepherd, Tory MP for Hereford and current chairman of the committee, says no bottles will be uncorked for five years. "After much searching, we eventually found a suitable spot for the cellar, and ceremoniously placed the first bottle inside," says Shepherd. By a twist of fate, the ceremony took place on November 5 last year, and was interrupted by one of Shepherd's officials brandishing a copy of that night's newspaper, with the dramatic headline "Maxwell lost at sea".

The college is understood to have no plans to change the fellowship, although Swift's credibility on the international academic scene is unlikely to be enhanced by such a sobriquet.

Buyer and cellar

AS THE fraud squad and the liquidators of the Maxwell empire battle to replenish the depleted pension funds, one liquid asset which Robert Maxwell disposed of



is close to being restored. When he was chairman of the Commons catering committee, Maxwell sold off the famous House wine cellar to try to reduce the deficit in the catering department. Now, almost 25 years after the last Jeroboam was sold, the cellar is being re-stocked.

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Poll attacks

TORY MP Emma Nicholson probably wishes she had followed Labour's example and waited until the election outcome was known before conducting a post mortem. Before the votes were counted, she recorded an interview for ITN on the assumption that the Tories had lost. While displaying undying loyalty to John Major, she is said to have been less than complimentary about the style of

the campaign and, in particular, about the prime minister's soapbox. ITN says "It was to have been shown only if Labour won. The material is confidential. It may be that Emma Nicholson herself has asked us not to release it." Nicholson, MP for Devon West and Torridge, says: "I gave interviews to both the BBC and ITN, neither of which was used. But neither was uncomplimentary about John Major." In which case, he may be seen to see them for himself.

Beastly business

THE 6,000 animal lovers who fork out thousands of pounds a year to sponsor animals at London Zoo are likely to hear what is to happen to their adopted dung beetles and wood ants in the next week or so. As employees who face redundancy were meeting to discuss saving the zoo, its directors

in sponsoring a keeper



were thrashing out the sponsorship problem. A representative says: "Our sponsors pay for the animals for a year, and we are very concerned that they should be treated fairly."

Sponsorship may continue for animals that find new homes, but one which will be looking for a new sponsor whatever happens is Jake, the Asiatic lion. He was adopted by the *Daily Mirror*, which is currently looking for a sponsor itself.

Tactful voting

TERRY WOGAN, one of the Garrick Club's newest members, was proudly sporting the distinctive club bow-tie at the Ireland Fund of Great Britain's mid-summer ball on Wednesday night. While he was championing the yes vote in the Irish referendum, he was coy about next month's vote on admitting women to the Garrick. "I'm very new. I don't expect they'll let me vote, and I wouldn't presume to say what should happen," he said, clearly aware of the possibility of being ostracised before he has found the smoker room.

A fellow abstainer will be one of the club's oldest members, George Malcolm Thomson, now 92, former political secretary to Lord Beaverbrook. "I feel that an old man like me should not play a part in considering the conditions of the future for younger people," he says. "But I won't fall down in a faint of horror at meeting some charming person in the bar."

● Tony O'Reilly, chairman of Heinz and one of America's highest paid executives, has not forgotten his Irish roots. As his fellow countrymen went to the polls yesterday, he was confidently predicting a victory for the yes campaign. "Ireland has benefited greatly from its membership of the EC," says O'Reilly, who in 1980 gained a doctorate in agricultural marketing from Bradford University. "The thesis dealt with poverty in Ireland before its membership of the EC. It's a very dull read, but there's a germ of an idea in it." His money is on a two-to-one vote in favour of the treaty. "Ireland we have a man called Pat O'Connor who is able to vote twice. I'm sure he will have been out in force at the referendum."



LESSONS FOR LABOUR

The old adage that oppositions do not win elections, governments lose them, was starkly disproved in April. The government had little going for it: the economy was in recession, voters were expressing their discontent to pollsters and there was a widespread feeling that it was time for a change. Yet it was Labour that lost. Indeed, Labour has actively lost every election since 1974, except perhaps for 1987, when the Tories won at the height of a boom. Is Labour at last learning lessons from these defeats?

Judging by the run-up to yesterday's National Executive Committee post mortem, some members are busy blaming everything in sight apart from the true culprit, John Prescott, one of the deputy leadership candidates, accused Labour's election campaign of having been "a complete mess". Actually, it was rather better than the Tory campaign. The "Jennifer's ear" broadcast and the Sheffield rally may have been mistakes, but they hardly cost Labour the election. If voters had really wanted to elect a Labour government they would have done so regardless.

Tony Benn, typically, attacked Labour's reluctance to call for cuts in defence spending and its acceptance of some Tory anti-trade union laws. Nobody who spent four weeks canvassing for Labour during the campaign could possibly agree with Mr Benn's prognosis. Meanwhile Clare Short blamed the party's "glitz", a sideways attempt to criticise Labour's PR advisers. They were only messengers, doing the best they could with a message that was badly out of date. They do not deserve to be shot.

Larry Whitty, Labour's general secretary, came closer to the real problem. Many people who had intended during the campaign to vote Labour simply could not bring themselves to do so in the privacy of the polling booth. Their unease, said his report to the NEC, "reflects a much more serious concern about the Labour party as a party of the past, and one which holds back aspirations and tends to turn the clock back". Also to blame was "a general distrust of the party and its leadership".

The leadership is about to change. In a

month's time, John Smith will take over. So far he has kept his head down while all around him have been losing theirs. Amid the bitter recriminations from many of the stiffer members of the party and the calls for a radical shake-up of the party from the more forward-looking MPs, Mr Smith has said little. If he is to be the leader capable of winning the next election rather than the last, he must, once in the job, do what his young Turks have been urging.

Most important is to disengage the Labour party from the trade unions. It is perhaps understandable in the run-up to this leadership election — probably the last in which they will have a direct say — that Mr Smith has been coy about plans to break the link. But even trade union members are starting to ask their leaders what the point of such a close relationship is. If it prevents Labour from winning office, it delivers no benefit to the unions or their members. The unions themselves would be better off were they to adopt the same posture as private companies do to the Tories: to forget about wielding power in the party, but to support it financially in the recognition that they would be better off under a Labour government.

If Labour becomes a democratic, one-member-one-vote party, it can begin to cultivate more widespread support. Like American Democrats, Labour has made the mistake of trying to woo minority groups in the hope of building an arithmetic majority. Yet people are no longer interested in the politics of class or conflict, as witnessed by the finding that a majority of manual working-class voters did not vote in April for the party that was supposed to espouse their interests.

The sooner Labour can shake off the chains that bind it to special interests — trade unions, the public sector, council tenants — the sooner it can become a party attractive to people of all backgrounds, who share its broad values. Only then will it have a chance of winning. Mr Smith may not be a natural radical. But he is an intelligent man. He must realise that such changes are needed if he is not to be condemned to the Opposition benches for the rest of his political life.

IN DEFENCE OF EUROPE

Nothing was more muddled in the Maastricht treaty than the clauses on a common European defence policy. They were a fuzzy attempt to reconcile the Anglo-Italian proposals for a Western European Union organisation linked to Nato and French wishes for a European defence independent of the United States. Today the WEU meets to translate this ill-defined bridge between the European Community and Nato into practical policy. Thanks largely to the British, it will adopt a policy that gives it a coherent role in the defence of Europe, allaying American suspicions while finessing a threatened conflict over the Franco-German corps.

The WEU is to open its doors immediately to Greece, Denmark and Ireland, the latter as an observer. It will also offer associate membership to Turkey, Norway and Iceland, Nato countries that are not part of the EC. This will not only make its membership continuous with that of the Community; it also balances the interests of Turkey and Greece, assuring both that neither can invoke the obligation of fellow members to come to its defence if attacked by the other.

The meeting in Bonn today will also agree that the WEU, like Nato, can operate out of area. Acting unanimously, the 52-member Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe or the Security Council will be able to call on either body to help to deal with a military emergency — Nato, to counter international aggression, or the WEU for more localised European conflicts. This is the clear result of Europe's failure to respond adequately to the start of the fighting in Yugoslavia last year, when America was reluctant to get involved and there was no mechanism to enable Western Europe to send troops to Slovenia or Croatia.

The WEU and Nato have also absorbed the lessons of the Gulf war. The need is greater than ever for collective defence to deal with threats other than a Soviet strike. The West has now formalised the kind of arrangements that enabled it, under American leadership, to put together a fighting force to confront Saddam Hussein. The potential roles — peacekeeping, peace-making, humanitarian relief and combat — have been properly defined. So too have the mechanisms for invoking military action, the political decision-making and the chain of command. The response to a conflict such as Yugoslavia will always be ad hoc. At least now the framework for an adequate response has been established.

Today's meeting will also be important for clarifying the role of the Franco-German corps. This, more than anything else, roused suspicions in America. Washington was always ambivalent about the WEU, agreeing intellectually on the need for a European pillar to Nato but reacting emotionally against its practical definition. Washington has been persuaded that the WEU, within a Nato framework, has a valid separate role. But the Franco-German corps was seen especially as a Trojan horse. An inspired speech by Malcolm Rifkind, the defence secretary, showed the way out of this dilemma. Let the corps continue, he suggested, as one of the formations on which the WEU could draw, along with such long-established units as the UK-Dutch amphibious force.

Defining the roles of Nato and the WEU is essential, whatever the future of Maastricht. The WEU, long written off as a talking shop, is now poised to play a proper role at a time when military tensions in the Balkans and Eastern Europe are likely to increase.

DOCTOR ON CALL

The image of the family doctor turning out at all times in all weathers to bring medical succour to the sick is an enduring one. It is also fast on the way to becoming a myth. Present-day Dr Finlays can now close their casebooks when they shut the front door behind them at an evening. And they can sleep through to morning, having sub-contracted night duty to a so-called deputising service.

General practitioners fought hard against becoming mere employees of the National Health Service at its inception in 1948. Self-interest came into this, but so did the honourable professional principle that a family doctor's first duty should be to his patient not to an employer. As a token of this dedication GPs gladly accepted a duty to deliver treatment 24 hours a day, turning out at any time of night if necessary.

Not so gladly now, it seems. Polls among GP members of the British Medical Association earlier this year showed more than two thirds wanted to end the out-of-hours obligation completely. While calling a doctor out in the middle of the night would still be possible, the call would be taken by one of a panel of doctors employed specially for that purpose, and almost certainly a stranger to the patient.

The poll, and the resolution on similar lines which is to be debated by the BMA's GP section next week, mark a significant shift in the professional ethos of medicine. Those advocating it as merely a technical change in night-cover arrangements are underestimating what they are about. Doctors now want the benefits of employee status, in particular the ability to draw a sharp line between time on and time off duty. They also want to retain the advantages, in favourable tax treatment, of independence from the

oversight of a superior, and in prestige, of being a self-employed professional. Patients will quickly become aware, however, that their GP has set a limit on what was previously an unqualified and open-ended relationship. Even if unspoken, doctors will be conveying to their patients that "what happens to you after six o'clock is no concern of mine". That drastically alters the relationship before six o'clock — and from the patient's point of view, not for the better.

If GPs can continue to uphold the principle of continuity of care, there is room for compromise over the practical difficulties of taking time off. Family doctors are allowed some nights off, but not every night. It is their responsibility to ensure cover is available by appointing (and paying for) other doctors to stand in. But while they receive an attendance allowance of £45 if they answer a night home call, they get only £15 (probably less than they have to pay a deputy) if they do not make the call themselves. This imbalance is designed to discourage the use of a deputising service. But it seems a wide disparity and it could be narrowed.

At present GPs are not allowed to make themselves unavailable to their patients out of hours below a certain minimum number of hours, a figure which is set locally according to national guidelines. While continuing to hold them professionally responsible for the medical care of their patients for 24 hours a day, therefore, the number of times they are allowed to employ a deputy could well be raised. Ministers are signalling that they are prepared to think along these pragmatic lines, which would leave the essence of the family doctor-patient relationship intact. Doctors would be unwise to demand more.

Yugoslavia: time for direct action

From Mr Calum Macdonald, MP for the Western Isles (Labour), and others

Sir, The comprehensive sanctions imposed on Serbia are to be welcomed but may, in their effect, be ambivalent. Sanctions have never been shown to work quickly and effectively in the past, and it is unlikely they will do so now, unless they are accompanied by other measures to express the international will to halt current Serbian government policy.

The moral need for an immediate end to the present horror in Bosnia, and the continuing policy of "ethnic cleansing" in Croatia, is clear. The Serbian government has actively instigated the infliction of terror and massacre upon the peoples of Croatia and Bosnia in turn. A delegation from the British section of the International Society of Human Rights returned from these countries on May 29; their detailed report on the atrocities by the Serbian forces makes utterly sickening reading.

The dark realities of the world of the 1990s are brought back to mind when we read that the Yugoslavian army and the Serbian militia in the town of Bosanski Samac had marked all the houses of non-Serb citizens with white signs so that they could be subject to looting by the militia. Non-Serbs were forced to wear white armbands and were only allowed in public for ten minutes each day. The earlier report of the EC monitors in Croatia painted a similarly gruesome picture.

We need to appreciate also that Western interests are involved. The future stability of the whole of Europe is endangered if we allow this policy of "ethnic cleansing" and the blatant revanchism of Serbia to continue for a day longer.

Of course, it is clear to us that neither British, American or European public opinion would at present support military operations on the ground in the old Yugoslavia by forces from the Western democracies. However, other actions should now be taken to enforce the will of the international community.

The time is past due for an aircraft carrier force to be deployed in the Adriatic. If this had been done before last Christmas, the beautiful, historic town of Dubrovnik would have been saved from the terrible bombardment which she is suffering. Regular air patrols should also be made to ensure that the Serbian air force is grounded and that all heavy artillery bombardment, whether by land or by sea, ceases.

We believe that the menace and motivation of the Serbian irregular and regular forces are, in fact, extremely low and that the above measures would suffice to end the present reign of terror. A lower level of violence might persist but it would be on a much diminished scale.

In the name of humanity, and for the sake of peace in an increasingly volatile post-Cold war environment, we beg the governments of the Western states to act forcibly and to act now before it is too late for Croatia, for Bosnia and for Europe.

Yours faithfully,
CALUM MACDONALD,
DAVID ALTON (Lib Dem),
MICHAEL COLVIN (C),
PATRICK CORMACK (C),
NORMAN GODMAN (Lab),
RUSSELL JOHNSTON (Lib Dem),
House of Commons,
June 17.

France's other face

From Miss Lindsay Boswell

Sir, What a relief to hear how dreadful life in Gascony is (Mrs Eaton's letter, June 15). With Barry Turner's evocative descriptions of English Gascon life in *Life & Times* over the past fortnight I had feared that our beautiful and friendly corner of southwest France would be swamped by those English who believe that, just because they want to live life cheaply in France (educate their children at their neighbours' expense, complain that French builders are expensive, bore their French neighbours with their incompetent French), the French should love them.

Let us hope that only those who can really enjoy French country living will be tempted by Mr Turner to buy houses in Gascony, and that the English who can fall out of love so easily stay in England.

Yours faithfully,
LINDSAY BOSWELL,
4 Pump Court, Temple, EC4.

Rough judgment

From Sir Frederick Lawton

Sir, Now that Bernard Levin ("Justice does not need to be done", June 15) has lost his fear of being committed to prison for criticising judges, if he ever had any, I shall read his future strictures of them with even more pleasure than I have done in the past. But he must get his facts right and learn the elements of the law relating to the jurisdiction of the Court of Appeal. His article was defective in both respects. He said:

Again and again the Court of Appeal got it wrong — hopelessly, scandalously and unbecomingly wrong — while innocent men and women dragged out decades of prison because these wretched boobies were simply not up to their jobs.

What has been overlooked amidst all the criticisms of the part played by the judges in the worrying series of events which have led to the quasi-

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Delors and his role in the Community

From Dr Richard Mayne

Sir, Distaste for the vision of the European Community's future ascribed to M Jacques Delors may be understandable on an island still partly aloof from continental concerns. But it should not be allowed to distort understanding of how the Community's institutions work (leading article, June 16).

No president of the European Commission will ever be only "a humble and civil servant", because the Commission is not and never has been "an arm of the ministerial council". It has always been, under the Treaty of Rome, an independent body entrusted with identifying and promoting the interests of the Community as a whole, as distinct from the sum of the national interests of its member states.

In this capacity, it proposes policies for decision by the Council of Ministers, mediates between governments, acts as a watchdog of the treaty (and tipstaff for the Court of Justice), is answerable to the European Parliament, and may be charged by the Council with the execution of detailed decisions.

The Commission is not "a disinterested centre of power", nor has the Council "had to set up a separate secretariat" to counterbalance it — it has had one since 1952.

Yes, the president of the Commission is at present unelected: he and his colleagues are appointed, jointly, by the elected representatives of the member states. If the Commission president were to be elected, it would no doubt be by universal suffrage or by the European Parliament. This would please many long-standing "Europeans" like myself: but how would "Euro-sceptics" react?

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD MAYNE,
Albany Cottage,
24 Park Village East,
Regent's Park, NW1,
June 17.

From the Assistant Director General, Secretariat of the EC Council of Ministers
Sir, You state in your editorial that "the Council of Ministers has had to

'Once more upon the waters...'

From the Chief Executive of Thames Water

Sir, Your leader today, "Dry beds, muddy waters", is unfairly directed. We have done everything in our power to ease the Darent river's burden, by voluntarily reducing our pumping now to the level the National Rivers Authority demands by September 1, 1992. We have brought part of the London water ring main into operation early to help meet the area's water demands.

The dry parts of the Darent are mainly a result of drought, not the amount of water we must abstract from the river or from the aquifers that feed it. Beneath the Darent is a large and healthy source of good water for the 200,000 people we serve in the area. Drought has depleted the water table, naturally, as it has done a number of times over the years. Several good winter rains are needed to raise it to ground level once more and restore the beautiful river.

But there is nothing Thames Water — or the NRA — can do that will restore the Darent this summer. Meanwhile, Thames Water must stick firmly to its first duty, to supply customers with water.

We do indeed have full reservoirs, the result of careful management of our resource during the worst drought this century. Unhappily, these are not located in the Darent area which must continue to depend on local groundwater sources for much of its supply.

You also suggest we wrote our own abstraction licences in the Darent area in a former existence. That is not true. They were issued by the Kent River Authority to the Metropolitan Water Board in 1966. The Thames Water Authority inherited them in 1974 and in turn passed them, unchanged, to this company in 1989.

Those who wrote the licences faced the difficult task of predicting water requirements for more than a quarter of a century ahead. Who can blame them now, if their duty to the customer in mind, they created a necessary margin of safety?

Thames Water will continue to protect its customers' interests first — including the costs they must meet — while taking a caring and thoughtful approach to conservation issues.

Yours faithfully,
M. R. HOFFMAN,
Group Chief Executive,
Thames Water plc,
14 Cavendish Place, W1,
June 16.

From the Chairman of the Darent River Preservation Society
Sir, The call by Lord Crickhowell of the National Rivers Authority for reduced abstraction from our river's catchment is good news for the Darent. At the same time, I am depressed by the suggestion, mentioned in your leading article, that the NRA might be dismembered and its responsibilities given elsewhere.

The NRA's measures are, in fact, only a start. To restore the river requires an even greater revocation of water-abstraction licences. If this were done, the Darent might again flow naturally from its springs, even during drought years.

Yours faithfully,
HUW ALBAN DAVIES,
Chairman,
Darent River Preservation Society,
Troutbeck, Oxford,
Sevenoaks, Kent.

'Entombed' at Kew

From Sir Roy Denman

Sir, The first batch of official papers about the arrival in Scotland of Rudolph Hess has finally been released by the Public Records Office at Kew (report, June 11). More are to be released over the next few weeks. But we are told that one document is being withheld for "national security reasons".

This is only one in a series of such veils still purposely hung over the past by the government. Others, for example, relate to the discussions in 1939 and 1940 of the possibility of a compromise peace.

If the prime minister really wants open government in 1992, why should the facts — whatever they are — about the long dead statesmen of 50 years ago continue to be withheld from public view? Why not set up a small committee of privy councillors, including at least one historian, to look through the public documents still classified and either release them or give convincing reasons why the national interest requires them to remain entombed?

Yours faithfully,
ROY DENMAN,
194b Avenue de Tervuren,
1150 Brussels,
June 13.

Lack of direction

From Mrs Michael Baird

Sir, The Director of the Courtauld Institute Galleries complains (letter, June 16) that the local council has refused to put up signs directing the public to the new gallery in The Strand.

Could he perhaps steal the sign in Woburn Place misdirecting the public to the old site?

Yours faithfully,
JOSTE BAIRD,
11 Gloucester Crescent, NW1,
June 16.

TODAY'S EVENTS

ALDEBURGH FESTIVAL London's oldest festival, the Aldeburgh Festival, is a celebration of music, drama, and dance. It takes place in the town of Aldeburgh, Suffolk, on the east coast of England. The festival is organized by the Aldeburgh Festival Society and runs from June to August. It features a variety of events, including orchestral performances, chamber music, opera, and dance. The festival is held in a variety of venues, including the Aldeburgh Festival Theatre, the Aldeburgh Festival Hall, and the Aldeburgh Festival Gardens. The festival is a major cultural event in the UK and attracts thousands of visitors each year.

THEATRE GUIDE

Jerome King's assessment of theatre showing in London

House full, returns only

Some seats available

Seats at all prices

MOBY DICK: A girl's school puts on a fund-raising show. Tony Monopoly plays the role of Ishmael. The production is a modern-day adaptation of the novel. It is a good production, but the music is a bit dated. The production is a good production, but the music is a bit dated.

THE NIGHT OF THE IGUANA: A modern-day adaptation of the novel. It is a good production, but the music is a bit dated. The production is a good production, but the music is a bit dated.

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THEATRE GUIDE

ASPECTS OF LOVE: Sarah Brightman in last week of Lloyd Webber's popular score before a national tour. Prince of Wales, Coventry Street, W1 (071-839 5972). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mats Wed, Sat, 3pm.

ANGELS IN AMERICA: Thrilling performance in Tony Monopoly's production of the play. National (Cottesloe), South Bank, SE1 (071-839 5972). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mats Wed, Sat, 3pm.

THE BLUE ANGEL: A girl's school puts on a fund-raising show. Tony Monopoly plays the role of Ishmael. The production is a modern-day adaptation of the novel. It is a good production, but the music is a bit dated. The production is a good production, but the music is a bit dated.

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NEW RELEASES

AUTOBIOGRAPHY: The story of a young French youth who hijacks a school bus to express his grudge against his parents. It is a good production, but the music is a bit dated. The production is a good production, but the music is a bit dated.

THE LOVER (18): Jean-Jacques Annaud's over-the-top, faithfully erotic adaptation of Marguerite Yourcenar's autobiographical novel about an adolescent girl's discovery of sex and love in 19th-century colonial Indochina. (MGM) (071-839 5972). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mats Wed, Sat, 3pm.

PARADISE: French boy-official success. Le Grand Central, made as sentimental rural Americana. A small boy finds his way to a small town in the heart of France. It is a good production, but the music is a bit dated. The production is a good production, but the music is a bit dated.

STONE COLD (18): Unpleasant action thriller about a cop who infiltrates a biker gang, mainly designed to show off the beefcake charms of former footballer Brian Blessed. (MGM) (071-839 5972). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mats Wed, Sat, 3pm.

THE ADJUSTER (18): Atom Egoyan's usual tale of voyeurism, family and isolated persons, visually seductive but hollow. (Euros) (071-839 5972). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mats Wed, Sat, 3pm.

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and where indicated with the symbol of a release across the country

BASIC INSTINCT (18): San Francisco detective Michael Douglas and top-pick murder suspect Sharon Stone risk a scorching psycho-sexual rollercoaster. Director, Paul Verhoeven. (MGM) (071-839 5972). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mats Wed, Sat, 3pm.

THE FIVE HEARTBEATS (15): Stand by good-natured tale of a black rock 'n' roll group's American journey. Robert Townsend writes, directs, and stars with Michael Wright, Tim Wille. (MGM) (071-839 5972). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mats Wed, Sat, 3pm.

JOHNNY SUED: A modern-day adaptation of the novel. It is a good production, but the music is a bit dated. The production is a good production, but the music is a bit dated.

THE LAMMINGTON MAN (15): Pierce Brosnan's computers turn a simpliciton (Jeff Fahey) into a cyber-monster. New technology yamboo laid low by a muddled script. From a Stephen King story, director, Brett Leonard. (MGM) (071-839 5972). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mats Wed, Sat, 3pm.

DANCE

New work is hardly run of the mill

Rambert Dance Company
Royalty

THE cheers at Rambert Dance Company's London opening on Tuesday were for Siobhan Davies' new work *Winniboro Cotton Mill Blues*. This takes its title and its inspiration from Frederic Rzewski's vivid piano score (splendidly played by John Sweeney). Simply as sound, this music fascinates by the way it builds from intense initial rhythms, evoking those of the mill, to the blues and more than a hint of ragtime. But its impact is increased by the implication this carries of finding human feeling in a mechanistic framework.

The baller relates strongly to this element. To emphasise the point, the original music is preceded by a tape constructed by the company's sound technician Mark Underwood and music director Roger Heaton from recordings of looms, a water-wheel and other machinery, their controlling rhythms and harsh sounds composed into patterns which oppress and tyrannise the handful of dancers. The arrival of the piano score does not, at first, so much liberate them as transform them, their numbers augmented, into patterns which, without any mimetic imitation, suggest both the regimentation of factory work and the movement of the machines themselves.

Within this context, individual dancers or a couple are allowed to break away for a time, with Catherine Quinn's impulsive solo leading the way. For her first solo, Davies gives Quinn a circuit of the stage like a *marionette* in classical ballet, but with its rhythms interrupted so as to make the virtuoso steps shine out singly with sharp clarity.

Impulsive solo: Catherine Quinn in Siobhan Davies's *Winniboro Cotton Mill Blues*

The combination of formal and emotional interest in this work, both at a high level, drew attention to a degree of aridity in the evening's other premiere, *Car's Eye*, by Richard Alston. From the fact that Alston dedicates this to the memory of Rambert's late chairman, Adrian Ward-Jackson, and from the stage patterns, I assume that the ballet arises from strong feelings. But Alston clothes them in abstractions which impede communication.

The choreographic patterns divide the cast into self-contained groups each with their own tempos and way of moving (as also in Alston's *Wildlife* which opens this programme). These have the power to startle — for instance, a very quick entry for three dancers near the beginning — and Gary Lambert's stinky, syncretised solo movements as a dominant loner combine humour and threat.

But Alston lets the dance be overwhelmed by David Sawyer's stridently domineering jazzy score and by the animation of Paul Huxley's design. A white screen with black blobs pulls apart, reforms as a frame, vanishes entirely and eventually reappears. Various coloured rectangles are floated, withdrawn, shown again in front of a dark purple wall. The ballet looks marvellous, sounds firesome, but its purpose has to be construed rather than felt.

JOHN PERCIVAL

FESTIVAL: ALDEBURGH

Challenges well met

the excellent soprano soloist, Lucy Shelton, whose warm lyricism made a

subterranean rumble herald another brief eruption before the coda, with its

beginning unearthly sounds, produced by bowed percussion instruments. The following evening, the Scottish Chamber Orchestra appeared under its associate conductor/conductor, Peter Maxwell Davies, in a programme including the fifth in the series of ten "Strathclyde Concertos" he is writing for the orchestra. The concerto is for violin and viola, and if that suggests Mozart's Sinfonia Concertante K.364, then Bach's Sixth Brandenburg may also be recalled in the orchestral disposition for strings alone.

Indead, the concerto is easily to respond to as an extended reverie of existential import — especially when delivered as serenely as here by James Clark (the SCO's leader) and Catherine Marwood — than as a closely argued structure of quasi-symphonic design. The SCO's performance was well prepared and displayed the same distinction as its rendering of Haydn's Symphony No 104 in D.

BARRY MILLINGTON

ROCK

Groping his way back to glory days

Bruce Springsteen
Globe Arena, Stockholm

subject to a more subtle variety of first night problems. The pacing was lumpy, never more so than when the climactic end of the show's first half — a joyous, reved-up "Leap of Faith" and a ringing "Roll of the Dice" — was interrupted by the rather plain and downright "Man's Job".

Springsteen's pre-song homilies lacked the commanding fluency of old. He seemed nervous as he prefaced "My Hometown" with talk about his two "nice little babies" and his fears for the "legacy" of a bitterly divided America which awaited them. The band were occasionally over-eager; when they struck up the fast shuffle "Working on the Highway" Springsteen had to yell at them to slow it down.

In contrast to the semi-starring roles taken by the musicians in the E Street Band, the new outfit remained anonymous. Of the five backing singers, only Bobby King was granted an introduction, while the five musicians (bass, drums, two guitars, and ex-E Street man Roy Bittan on keyboards) received no acknowledgement. Springsteen's wife, Patti Scialfa, guested on poignant versions of "Brilliant Disguise" and "Human Touch".

But the new set-up seemed something of a half-way house. If Springsteen had truly wanted to get away from the old showband routines he should have hired a three-piece group like Neil Young's or Bob Dylan's and started from scratch. As it was he had anything up to 11 people on stage, but with very little in the way of instrumental textures or rhythmic variation to show for it. Springsteen's occasional sorties on harmonica did little to compensate for the loss of Clarence Clemons's saxophone, whose timbre was sorely missed.

Notwithstanding the inclusion of established numbers such as "Hungry Heart", "Glory Days" and "Born in the U.S.A.", the show focused primarily on material from the new albums, which for all its appeal on disc has yet

Springsteen onstage in Sweden

fully to flower in live performance. Still, these are early days and it is much too soon to write off a performer of Springsteen's colossal resources. There were frequent flashes of the old magic: the harsh and bitter tone of "Souls of the Departed", the unbridled optimism and vintage sound of "Lucky Town", to mention but a couple. Even so, having worked so hard to make inner peace with himself, Springsteen now has some bridges to rebuild as a performing artist.

His only British concerts are at Wembley Arena (081-900 1234) on July 6, 9, 10, 12 and 13.

DAVID SINCLAIR

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MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

London Galleries: Richard Cork reviews the Richard Hamilton retrospective at the Tate

Pop's quizzical questioner

When Richard Hamilton was a boy, he would often find himself taken out for a spin in a brand-new Bentley or Jaguar. His father worked as a driver for Henry's, the West End car showroom, and Hamilton looks back on those front-seat joy-rides as "rather glamorous" occasions.

Now, 60 years after Hamilton senior steered those state-of-the-art automobiles through the city streets, his son's retrospective has opened at the Tate. And the survey proves that Hamilton junior retained that early sense of exhilaration with modern urban life and its gleaming, seductive machinery when he became an artist.

But the central fascination of the show lies in the gradual transformation of his attitude. Ever-alert to the social shifts of his era, Hamilton's vision of motorised transport has changed from initial enthusiasm to eventual pessimism. In the early fifties, the car is seen as a speeding blur. Viewed from a passing train, the vehicle almost dissolves in a haze of fragmented, darting brushwork. For all its prowess as a feat of engineering, this tiny black automobile retains a touching innocence.

By the time he made cars the subject of his first Pop paintings in the late fifties, they had taken on a greater allure. Now of streamlined American make, they fill the foreground with the flashiness of outsize headlights and undulating chrome. The de-luxe fittings belong to the Chrysler Corp, the quinquessence of worldly enchantment to young Englishmen struggling to emerge from post-war austerity. Packaged by advertisers who brazenly equated the car with erotic power, the Chrysler is wooed in Hamilton's painting by a sex goddess. Or rather, by the disembodied lips of Voluptua, who starred in a late-night programme on American television. Red and ripe, they float above the diagrammatic lines of an Exquisite Form.

However, equally analytical Hamilton may have been in his approach to such a subject, his underlying involvement is clear. But a decade later, the grey window of a police van frames an altogether more oppressive image: Mick Jagger and the art dealer Robert Fraser, their blanching hands fluttering as they brandished the handcuffs binding them together on a drugs charge. Here, at the height of the euphoric Sixties, "swinging" turns to "swingeing". A more ominous mood is introduced, quite alien to the high spirits of Pop.

From then on, Hamilton's view of the world underwent a progressive darkening. The sense of hope which had nourished his earlier art gave way to a suspicion that social structures were disintegrating. He still occasionally celebrated the designer sophistication of products such as a Lux 50 amplifier, made thin enough to be built into a painting. But the result represents the least interesting side of Hamilton's art. He is far stronger when questioning the contemporary world, and in a recent painting called *War Games* the full force of his dissatisfaction is unleashed.

At first glance, the Sony television flanked by speakers looks like another suave homage to technological expertise. By employing the Scanachrome system of colour enlargement, Hamilton makes the entire image resemble a television picture. Apart from that, it is from two vital areas. The first, paradoxically, is the Sony screen itself. Painted in oils, the screen is filled with the "sandpit"



Elegiac: *My Marilyn* (1965), oil and collage on photograph on panel. Courtesy of Stadt Aachen, Ludwig Forum für internationale Kunst

model of the Gulf war made famous by Peter Snow's *Newsnight* commentaries. Balsawood tanks in green, blue and yellow are assembled there, reducing the horror of the conflict to the level of a children's game.

We are a long way, now, from the sleekness of Bentleys and Jaguars, or the Chrysler's stylish *élan*. The tanks mock any attempt to grasp the reality of late 20th-century armaments. Only beneath the television set does Hamilton redress the balance by letting thickly applied, blood-red paint dribble down the cabinet, where a newspaper headline refers to the "Mother of Battles".

Such a bitter image could hardly be further removed from the grinning face of a woman on television in a seminal collage Hamilton made 35 years before. The black-and-white set occupies only a small space in a living room packed with encyclopaedic manifestations of his engagement with popular culture. A kingsize tin of ham sits on the coffee table like an Oldenburg sculpture, while a *Young Romance* comic-book cover is framed and given more wall-space than the ancestral portrait hanging nearby.

When Hamilton made this astonishingly prescient picture, for an exhibition at the Whitechapel Art Gallery in 1956, Pop Art did not exist. But his little collage is bursting with anticipations of the movement which would overturn western art a few years later. While an archetypal

fifties housewife vacuum cleans the stairs with an extended suction tube, a smug body-builder flexes his pecs and clasps a phallic lollipop emblazoned with the prophetic word "Pop". The entire image sums up the gleeful consumerism of the period with wit, finesse and a marvellously controlled exuberance. As well as honouring many of the interests of the Independent Group—artists, critics and theorists who held regular meetings at the Institute of Contemporary Arts—this collage provided Hamilton with a rich array of themes for future paintings. At the age of 34, a turning-point had been reached. From now on, popular culture would find itself placed at the very heart of his work.

But there was nothing brash about the pictorial strategies deployed in his Pop pictures. Apart from an untypical and rather tiresome roundel bearing the words "Slip it to Me", Hamilton's paintings of the period are pale, reticent and sometimes complex to a fault: utterly different from the hard-hitting, billboard-size images developed by New York Pop artists.

Not for nothing did he study at the Royal Academy Schools and, after the war, at the Slade School of Art. An ambitious early painting called *Nude* is handled like a life-class model by William Coldstream, even though Hamilton subjects the figure to a sequence of repetitions inspired by the Italian Futurists. Time and again, he demonstrates his determination to renew western figure

painting. The fact that he uses raw material culled from Marilyn Monroe photographs, or a frame from the Bing Crosby film *White Christmas*, should not obscure that aim.

My Marilyn seizes on the disquieting effect of the cancellation marks the actress made to veto unsuitable photographs. Recreated on canvas, they obliterate her image several times over; and when Hamilton allows the approved version to emerge unscathed from these disfiguring strokes, Marilyn is robbed of all substance and reduced to a white, featureless phantasm. The outcome is an elegiac meditation on media manipulation and its tragic consequences.

Quite unpredictably, a similar melancholy prevails in *I'm dreaming of a white Christmas*. Standing in a hotel lobby, Bing Crosby stands as a numbing exemplar of mass culture at its most schmaltzy. But Hamilton paints the scene in reversed, negative colour. Bing becomes black, thereby lending a stinging irony to the title of his song. And the whole picture, benefiting from Hamilton's brushwork at its most subtle and beguiling, takes on a hallucinatory quality. The banal image becomes magical, transformed with delicacy and daring by an inveterate avant-gardist who is still traditional enough to rely on the metamorphic power of art.

Richard Hamilton. Sponsored by SRU Ltd, at the Tate Gallery, Millbank, London SW1 (071-921 1313). Mon-Sat 10am-5.50pm, Sun 2-5.50pm (last admission 5.15pm). Until September 6.

GALLERY CHOICE

● **ALUSH SHIMA:** Roy Miles breaks new ground in his summer show this year by turning the searchlight elsewhere in the former Eastern bloc, to Albania. Shima, who graduated from the Albanian Academy in 1965, is well worth discovering: his brilliant Post-Impressionist colours are held in check by the disciplines of masterly draughtsmanship. Also older favourites, such as Konstantin Lomkin, known as the "Russian Degas" because he specialises in studies of ballerinas. Roy Miles Gallery, 29 Bruton Street, London W1 (071-495 4747). Mon-Fri 10am-6pm, Sat 9am-1pm, until July 23.

● **MEXICAN PAINTED BOOKS:** The impact of Europe on the Americas was in most ways culturally disastrous. Owing to systematic destruction by Spanish friars, very few pre-Conquest Mexican books remain—only about 16 texts. But the form of book, which was primarily mnemonic, enabling a "reader" to deliver a text with great accuracy from the pictures, survived into colonial days. Surprisingly, some of the finest are in this country, rarely seen because of their fragility. British Museum, Great Russell Street, WC1 (071-636 1555). Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 2.30-6pm, until September 6.

JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR

TELEVISION REVIEW

Mirror images of the right stuff

We all know about role models, but what about anti-role models? These are people who provide an infallible guide to life, but only if you do the opposite. Examples are easy enough to think of: Jane Fonda, unofficial American politician, has a sure touch. Oliver Reed is a possible anti-role model for those aiming for a life of inconspicuous discretion.

Among politicians, few can hold a candle to Robert McNamara. As President Kennedy's Defence Secretary, he discovered "the missile gap"—which we now discover never existed—and gave the arms race a healthy shove in the wrong direction. During the Vietnam War, he was, well, wrong. Then in the Eighties he was apparently wrong again, opposing the tough policies of the Reagan administration which finally persuaded the Kremlin the game was up.

According to the second programme in the Pandora's Box series, shown on BBC 2 last night, McNamara was the

victim of analysts from the Rand Corporation, who believed they could apply the logic of science to the messy business of international politics. The invention of the bomb provided the opportunity for their calculations, and the Cold War the perfect mise-en-scène. Up went the curtain and on came Herman Kahn and Albert Wohlstetter, talking with ghoulish enthusiasm about overkill and mutually assured destruction.

The technique sounded new, but really wasn't. During the second world war, British scientists pioneered the science of operational research, analysing, among other things, the effects of saturation bombing. They used numbers to give precision to the politicians' hunches, or to disprove them. The men and women at Rand and later at Kahn's Hudson Institute added a new vocabulary, and addressed a new problem—the nuclear balance of terror—but they were the heirs of operational research.

They deserve more credit than producer Adam Curtis

seemed willing to give them. True, they could sound pretty grim at times, as they discussed the aftermath of nuclear war—90 million Americans might be dead but that meant 90 million would still be alive, Kahn exulted, so "happy life" would still be possible—but these things are better discussed than left to emotion.

In their more lucid intervals they also helped devise strategies that would minimise the risk of war and create the most stable possible balance. In the aftermath of the Soviet Empire all this may seem obvious, trite, or unnecessary. Who knew that the other side were making the same coldly rational calculations? Nobody; but to assume it at least paid the enemy the compliment of intelligence and logic.

The trouble was that number-crunching could never provide a substitute for politics. McNamara's band

delivered reams of figures about how well the Vietnam War was going when any eyewitness could see it was going badly. President Johnson introduced the analysts into his administration to create his Great Society and they failed. President Reagan preferred the advice of astrologers and science fiction writers, who quite honestly did no worse. The saddest sight in the film were the empty corridors and echoing rooms of Kahn's Hudson Institute, abandoned now that the Cold War and Kahn's giant personality have been extinguished. Once this impressive pile in New York State was the object of abuse from anti-war demonstrators who believed that to think rationally about nuclear weapons was to make their use inevitable.

The demonstrators were wrong, and the analysts were right... or so it would appear so far, anyway.

NIGEL HAWKES

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Was sex the force driving Britten?

A new biography of Benjamin Britten is certain to shock some of the composer's admirers. Richard Morrison reports

A startlingly frank biography of Benjamin Britten, delving deep into hitherto closed areas of the composer's life, is to be published in October by Faber. Britten's own publisher, in 600 pages Humphrey Carpenter (biographer of W.H. Auden and Ezra Pound) draws together astonishing verbatim accounts of Britten's paedophile behaviour, his homosexual affairs in the years before he formed his lasting relationship with Peter Pears, and his apparently callous abandoning of friends who were of no further use.

Some of these areas have been discreetly alluded to by earlier biographers. But Carpenter, who was given "carte blanche" by the Britten-Pears Foundation to quote from Britten's highly explicit letters and diaries, goes further.

Britten is said to have told Eric Crozier (librettist of *Albert Herring*) that he was raped by a master at his prep school, and to have remarked to another librettist, Myfanwy Piper, that his father sent him out to procure boys. The young composer is depicted in the Thirties as part of a promiscuous homosexual world that seems to have included nearly every major creative figure of the age. The book claims that Auden, wooed Britten in poems and in person; Isherwood tried to seduce him in a Turkish bath; the composer Lennox Berkeley also made serious approaches.

Later, Britten himself made advances to his most illustrious English contemporary, Michael Tippett. "He thought it would be nice if we slept together, which we did, though I drew back from sexual relations," Tippett is quoted as saying.

Carpenter discusses Britten's life-long infatuation with young boys. His book contains lengthy interviews with several who shared Britten's bed, and he also talks to the film actor David Hemmings who, as a 12-year-old playing the boy Miles in the premiere of *The Turn of the Screw*, was once the object of an intense Britten crush. Rather curiously, Britten is also said by Carpenter to have "loathed" Strauss's opera *Der Rosenkavalier* because of

its suggestions of lesbianism. Britten's inability to take criticism or even gentle ribbing of himself or Pears is argued to be a prime reason for his notorious treatment of former colleagues, or "corpses" as they were known after they were banished from the Aldeburgh circle. They included most of Britten's librettists, many singers and several distinguished conductors, including Sir Charles Mackerras (shunned after making a joke about the number of boys in *Noyes Fludd*), Lord Harewood, once a staunch friend, was ostracised because his divorce offended Britten's prudish sensibility.

The thrust of Carpenter's book is that Britten's psychological history must be given paramount consideration when his music is being interpreted. Carpenter relates both *The Turn of the Screw* and *Billy Budd* back to the alleged prep school abuse. In *Peter Grimes* the character of Grimes and the "mothering" Ellen are linked to Britten himself and Pears. *Gloriana*, telling of Queen Elizabeth I's discarding of the Earl of Essex, is related to Britten's own discarding of courtesans. The War Requiem may be as much about Britten's guilt at the suicide of a discarded lover as it is a "reparation" for the second world war.

These contentions are liable to be hotly disputed when Carpenter's book is published. Some will side with Pears. "I do not believe Ben's private life plays any role in the assessment of his artistry and personality," says Michael Tippett. However, many recent biographies of musical giants—notably on Tchaikovsky, Menuhin and Bernstein—have taken the opposite view, laying bare every peccadillo.

Carpenter quotes Stephen Reiss (a longtime administrator of the Aldeburgh Festival, whom Britten turned against) as saying "I feel most strongly that BB can survive the truth and still come through as one of the most supreme and lovable persons that ever lived." Readers of Carpenter's book may not find it so easy to reach the same verdict.

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Too young to live, too small to die

What chance does a premature baby have of making it through to a healthy childhood? Jenny Caffe reports

Brett's hand is the size of his father's thumbnail, his body the length of a man's watch strap. He was not due to be born until mid-September, yet here he is, already three weeks old, attached to life by a criss-cross of thin tubes, one into his nose, another into his mouth, another into his scalp and another into a vein in his arm. Lying flat in a Perspex cot with his legs and arms splayed out, his red, wrinkled face peeping out of a woolly bonnet, he reminds his mother of an ancient tortoise.

Throughout her pregnancy Chris Greenwood had been bleeding, an indication that there may have been something wrong with the placenta. Doctors at her local hospital in Halifax, west Yorkshire, recommended bed rest. She already had a five-year-old son, so that was easier said than done. But last month, when Mrs Greenwood was five months pregnant, she was forced to spend a few days in hospital. While she was there, she went into labour. Doctors can't say for certain why some women give birth prematurely. There was an attempt to stop labour with drugs, but this did not work. By the time Mark, her husband, arrived, she was having contractions every five minutes. The midwives told her that at 23 weeks gestation the baby was bound to be born dead. Somebody came in and asked her if she wanted it incinerated or buried.

"I couldn't believe that anyone could be so insensitive," Mrs Greenwood says. "I could feel the baby moving inside, but here they were telling me it was as good as dead." Frances Hargreaves, her mother, remembers seeing staff move the cot away from the labour room. Mrs Hargreaves says she had to insist that an incubator was brought in and heated, just in case her grandchild was alive. It seems

little Brett shared his grandmother's determination. As soon as he was born, at 9.55pm on May 23, he cried and stretched out an arm. Without hesitation, medical staff put him on a ventilator and rushed him into intensive care.

His parents saw him properly for the first time an hour later. They were astonished by how small he was — 1lb 5oz. Mr Greenwood says: "He looked totally different to what I expected a baby to look like. His skin was so transparent you could see everything."

When he was a few hours old, Brett was transferred to the regional neo-natal unit at Leeds General Infirmary, where he is now in the care of consultant paediatrician Professor Malcolm Levene. A baby born 17 weeks premature, as Brett was, has a one in ten chance of survival. According to Professor Levene, Brett is on the very edge of life, the limit of viability.

No baby younger than him has survived in Britain. Tyler Davison, the baby born this week in Nottingham weighing 1.1oz — the smallest surviving baby for 50 years — is only 11 weeks premature. Were it not for Tyler's size, his chances of surviving would be far higher than Brett's: the success rate increases dramatically with age. Babies born at 24 weeks have a 25 per cent chance of survival; at 26 weeks this rises to 50 per cent, and at 28 weeks babies in Leeds have a 90 per cent chance.

Over the past decade, advancing technology has allowed doctors to push back the limits of viability. The introduction of an artificial surfactant (a fluid lining naturally present in mature lungs which helps us breathe) has stopped immature lungs from collapsing. Technicians have developed smaller instruments. Ventilation techniques have been refined.



Holding to life in Leeds: babies born at 24 weeks have a 25 per cent chance of survival; at 26 weeks, 50 per cent, and at 28 weeks, 90 per cent

However, the price of survival may be high. The younger the baby, the more likely he or she will need ventilation, in which gases are blown into the lungs under pressure. But this may lead to chronic lung disease. Most of these babies start to breathe unaided after three or four days, but the very premature may stay on the ventilator for several weeks. Fragile blood vessels near premature babies are prone to brain haemorrhage, and many suffer from necrotising enterocolitis, a condition of the bowel which leads to problems with absorbing food. For those who survive, there is a 5 per cent risk of severe handicap, and a 10 to 15 per cent risk of some form of disability.

Technological advances in neonatology have led to the fear that premature babies are being kept alive when their chances of long-term survival and health are doubtful. Professor Levene says that by the time a baby is referred to his unit, a decision has already been made to start treatment. But he does not believe that this commits doctors to continue intensive care indefinitely. The situation has to be

constantly reviewed, and at any time medical staff and parents may face the decision about whether or not to withdraw treatment.

While Brett Greenwood is in one Leeds intensive care ward, a 24-week-old baby is brought into another. There are signs that he has suffered a brain haemorrhage, and his teenage parents are worried about the possible outcome. Over the next few days doctors and nurses keep them fully informed about their baby's condition. There is more bleeding into his brain, and nothing more can be done for him. He is taken off the ventilator and dressed in white baby clothes. His parents hold him in a quiet room for several hours, until he dies. The nurse who has been looking after him leaves the unit in tears.

The staff at Leeds are aware of the enormity of deciding whether to withdraw treatment. They stress that the final voice has to rest with the parents, and that their role is to guide them by offering an accurate and honest picture of the baby's condition. Professor Levene believes that the death of a baby should not be regarded necessarily

as a failure. "We mustn't see success as being lots of healthy babies who survive lots of neo-natal intensive care. Success can also be a baby who has died because of an untreatable condition, but who has been known and loved by his parents."

The important ethical question is when to consider withdrawal of treatment.

Professor Levene's reference point is whether or not the child will be able to attend a normal school, or whether he or she is so mentally disabled that they will never be able to look after any of their needs. Such a view is bound to cause offence to some, but Professor Levene says he has known only two or three parents in the past ten years who have wanted him to continue intensive care in the knowledge that their child will be severely mentally disabled. In those cases their physical condition improved, but they remained brain-damaged. However, he says these children are very much loved and cared for by their families.

This is an ethical area in which

doctors and parents work very much on their own. So far, the law has left such decisions in their hands. Clinicians are guided by the Hippocratic oath, which says they must act for the benefit of their patients, but that above all they must do them no harm.

What parents need to know is how accurate the medical predictions are. An understanding of neurology and experience in analysing scans has taught Professor Levene and his senior colleagues how to predict the effects of damage to the brain, but some of the other medical complications cannot be foreseen. Once doctors and nurses have embarked on treatment, it is harder for them to discontinue it. At Leeds they admit that in some cases they may have carried on trying a bit too long.

"The big problem is that we're all human," Professor Levene says, "and we're making difficult decisions based on sometimes inadequate information, without having the benefit of knowing what's going to happen in the future."

There is no doubt that the right decisions were made for Andrew

Puckering. Born 15 weeks early, weighing 1lb 6oz, he is now a chubby seven-month old. Robert and Mary Puckering spent the first few months of their baby's life hoping for the best one moment, expecting the worst the next. Andrew suffered several complications, including a pulmonary haemorrhage, but each time he fought back. Now, he is apparently doing all the right things for a baby born on February 18, 1992, which is when he was due, rather than his actual birthday of November 6, 1991.

The Puckerings have been told that Andrew has a one in five chance of developing asthma, and that he may be more susceptible in his first year to coughs and colds, but by the time he goes to school there should be nothing to distinguish him from a baby born at full term. As Mr Puckering says: "We started off with perhaps nothing, and finished up with everything. We're very lucky."

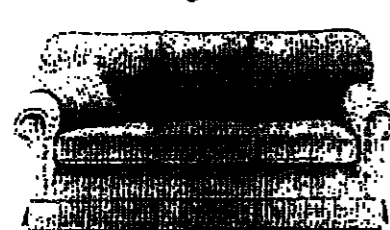
● Jenny Caffe reports on neo-natal care for Public Eye tonight (BBC2, 9pm).
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Doctors in distress



MEDICAL BRIEFING
Dr Thomas Stuttford

The general public is unlikely to be reassured by the views expressed at this week's conference organised by the British Medical Association on stress-related symptoms among doctors. It seems that the doctor's psychic armour is as liable to buckle under the tensions of dealing with the general public as anybody else's.

Reaction to stress varies and the increasing importance given to A-level results rather than personality in choosing doctors makes it unsurprising that some of those selected are unable to take the considerable strain. Younger doctors are less likely to have come from a medical background which accepts its tribulations and there is no longer the same support of colleagues or the boost to morale provided by social status.

The impact which adverse circumstances have on a personality depends on many factors. Some people will, mistakenly as it happens, be demanding tranquillisers while others when confronted by the same situations will remain totally relaxed. There is certainly a genetic factor which determines response to stress: just



as some breeding lines in animals have more progeny who are highly strung, so do some families. Unfortunately the very people who carry the genes which would make them likely to succumb to stress are the same ones who are unlikely to provide a relaxed and happy family background

for their children: one of the few factors which are known to predispose to sensitivity to stress is insecurity in childhood.

What is euphemistically described as stress is essentially the same condition which in the past was more unkindly called an anxiety neurosis. Anxiety states, which can either be acute or chronic, exhibit both physical and mental symptoms. People harried beyond endurance by the trials and tribulations of life may start to lose concentration, with memory becoming poor and reasoning flawed. They become cross, edgy, irritable, suffer from light sleep and insomnia and may display many of the features of a minor depressive episode. Small wonder that the BMA must provide care for its members who are so afflicted.

Physical symptoms of anxiety can be divided into three groups. Some are due to an over-stimulated autonomic (spontaneous) nervous system — a rapid heart rate, shaking, sweating, indigestion, an over-active gut and a sensitive bladder so that sufferers are forever rushing to the lavatory. The stress patient is a tense patient: the second group of symptoms are due to muscle tension which can distort the spine so that the patient suffers headaches, shoulder and chest pain and back ache; limb muscle tension makes them feel tired and heavy. Finally, anxious patients hyperventilate at best they take long, sighing respirations, at worst they breathe so rapidly that they suffer chest pains, faintness and a tingling in the hands and feet.

Confidence restorer

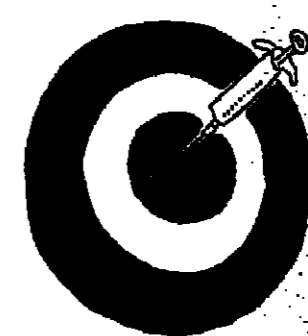
An hour or two in a clinic dealing with genito-urinary medicine would be long enough to convince any by-stander that many doctors are reluctant to discuss a patient's sexual problems. A common complaint from men is that if they suffer from premature ejaculation they have received little help from their own GP.

Waguih Guirguis, a consultant psychiatrist in Ipswich, has recently written in the medical journal *Update* on the changing approach to premature ejaculation. Once it was thought to be due to over-enthusiasm and the measures considered appropriate to reduce sexual excitement ranged from anaesthetic creams, to wearing two condoms, to teaching patients to think about some ghastly haridan rather than their partner, which would seem to defeat the object of the exercise. Later, when premature ejaculation was considered to

High-risk factor

be a sign of anxiety, Masters and Johnson taught a stop-go technique, so that sexual stimulation was temporarily suspended at the point before ejaculation became inevitable.

In all probability the causes of premature ejaculation vary. In some it may be due to an excess of youthful vigour, whereas in others anxiety may be responsible. The first really helpful drug in its treatment was clomipramine Anafranil, usually used as an anti-depressant it was found that one of its side effects was to delay ejaculation. More recently the 5 HT re-uptake inhibitors, the newer and safer anti-depressants, have been shown to be even more effective in this respect. No doctor would prescribe drugs for any length of time for premature ejaculation but they have a role in restoring, or creating, confidence in a man whose domestic life may have crumbled because of this symptom.



mentally subnormal, as well as homosexuals and promiscuous heterosexuals are at greatest risk. Most experts on liver disease who see the damage which hepatitis B can wreak in the early stages of the disease — and many years later — feel that now that more people are travelling to exotic places and former citizens of the Third World are coming to live in Britain, that it is no longer adequate, let alone good, community medicine to limit the injections against hepatitis to high-risk groups.

Rallying to a different cause

George Hill
celebrates the
forgotten charms of
the town and
environs of Le Mans

OUT of earshot of the roaring engines and squealing tyres at the Tertre Rouge bend, there is another Le Mans, and a peaceful region often overlooked by British visitors to France. Le Mans is one of those names like Stilton or Twickenham which, for most who hear it, do not denote a place so much as something that happens there.

At least for the French the name also brings to mind *rillettes de Mans* — the feather-light local transfiguration of poted pork — as well as the 24-hour race. For the British, the town is almost a blank, and its hinterlands along the Sarthe and the Loir an undefined territory to be crossed in the dash to the south.

A couple of hours' driving beyond Le Mans brings one into sight of the white pinnacles and crowded tourist traps of the other Loire — feminine, not masculine, in gender, and a far moodier and stronger stream than its mild male namesake.

The area between has great interest and charm in its own right. It is a little less strenuously devoted to wooing the tourists than the Loire, and it makes a pleasant stopping point on a leisurely journey to the south.

The city was a place of significance long before Gustave Singher and Georges Durand launched the 24-hour endurance race in 1923. The old town, on a bluff above the Sarthe, is a small enclave within a busy modern city, and a highway in a cutting slashes across the middle of it. But flingers might recognise parts of the jumble of half-timbered 15th century houses and classical town houses of later centuries.

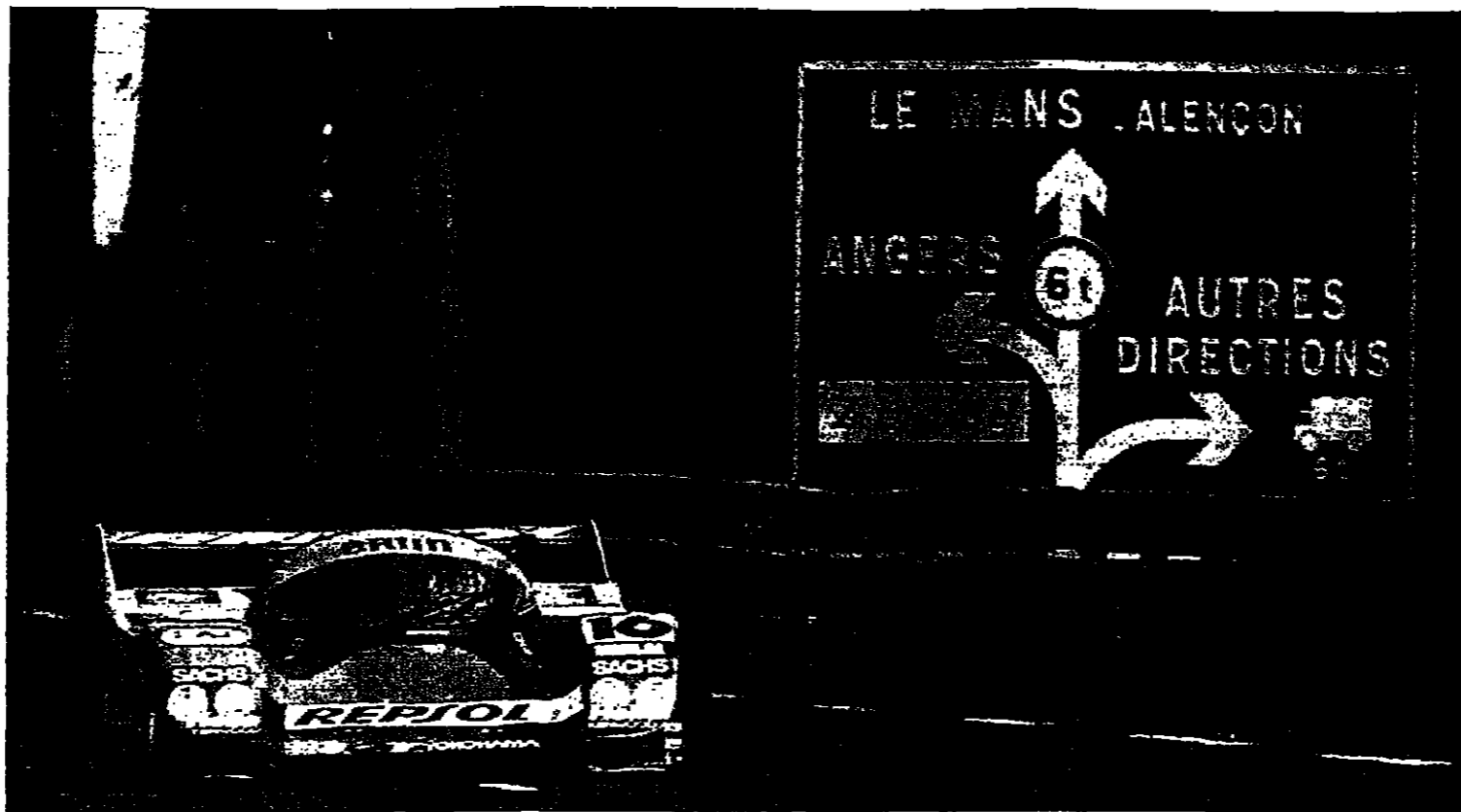


Image of power: but Le Mans was a place of significance long before the 24-hour endurance race was launched in 1923

because much of the film of Cyrano de Bergerac was made there. During the filming, the steep alleyways under the cathedral were intriguingly embellished by additional outcrops of crumbling medievalism, indistinguishable from the originals until one looked behind, and found they were only one brick thick.

The cathedral gives a similarly disorientating impression, because it begins as a sturdy no-nonsense romanesque nave, and then suddenly transforms itself into one of the most extraordinary efflorescences of high gothic, bristling like a porcupine with flying buttresses and radiant with 13th century stained glass. Some critics (free of local bias) judge it to be the finest gothic chancel in France, which means the finest anywhere.

The main road south leaves in peace the chief attractions of the

valley of the Loir. Quiet towns like La Flèche and La Chartre lie beside the river. Vendôme, Châteaudun and Le Lude have pale turreted châteaux, very similar to the more famous ones that overhang the big Loire.

Le Lude puts on a *son et lumière* display every summer. Many other châteaux do the same, but at Le Lude more than 100 local people joust, drill and dance in the pageant every year.

I found the village band marching up the narrow main street, followed by every inhabitant old enough and young enough to walk. At the same time the *pompier*s were giving a demonstration of how to dislodge a hornet's nest from a chimney (the hornets throwing themselves into the spectacle with enthusiasm), and procession and demonstration became cheerfully entangled.

The landscape of the Loir is not as flat and sandy as the region of the Loire is in places, and because the smaller river is relatively smooth-flowing it is more suitable for water sports such as swimming, canoeing and cruising. As in other regions, it is possible to make expeditions for several days by canoe (or by bicycle, on foot, or in a horse drawn caravan), with one's baggage taken on separately to each night's destination.

Places to stay range from camping sites (the riverside one at La Flèche is attractive) to comfortable small town hotels, such as the Relais Cicero in La Flèche — one of those decorous French establishments where a wall of creepers and an iron gate seem to bar outsiders from a glimpse of white shutters and a shady courtyard.

There are few restaurants of wide renown, but many of ample compe-

tence, such as the Hotel de France in La Chartre. Travellers seeking a lodging with more character than a hotel will find a wide variety of *Chambres d'Hotes* to explore, including the Chateau de la Préfontaine, at Lésigné, where rabbits crop the lawn and white ducks peacefully swim on the pond.

GEORGE HILL

● Further information: Association pour le Développement de la Vallée du Loir 3, boulevard René Levasseur/Passage du Commerce, 72000 Le Mans. The Le Mans 24-hour race starts at 4pm Saturday, June 20 and finishes at 4pm on Sunday, June 21. Further details from the Automobile Club de l'Ouest, Circuit des 24 Heures, Les Raineries, 72100 Le Mans (010 33 4340 2424).

TOMORROW: In Weekend Times the best of Normandy

Properties of the week

FRANCE

WHAT YOU CAN GET FOR
£15,000 to £20,000



For £15,000 (including agency fees), you can buy this detached stone-built cottage and former distillery in Cognac country, a few miles from the old town of Barbezieux, in the southern Charente. The nearest airport is Bordeaux, about an hour and a half's drive, and Caen can be reached in five hours. Situated in a peaceful medieval village, surrounded by vineyards, the property, with pretty gardens back and front, is structurally sound, but needs renovation. It has two rooms on the ground floor, with oak-beamed ceilings and a huge fireplace. A wooden staircase leads to a large attic, which could be converted into two bedrooms. It comes with a vast workshop and an adjoining open-sided barn. The UK agent is Western France Properties, 70 Brewer Street, London W1 (071-734 9002).



The same sort of money — £15,000 (including agency fees, taxes and notarial costs) — will buy this rambling village house, near Arles-sur-Tech in the Pyrénées Orientales, near the Spanish border. The airport at Perpignan can be reached in 50 minutes, but allow 12 hours for the drive from Calais. Stone-built on three storeys, the old house has a big rear garden and magnificent views over the mountains beyond. It is shabby but habitable, with mains water and electricity. There is a kitchen/dining room, fireplace and wc at street level, with a living room, two bedrooms and a room that would convert to a bathroom upstairs. The UK agent is Barbers, 427-429 North End Road, Fulham, London, SW6. (071-381 0112).



Further north, in Normandy, £18,000 will buy this detached stone tin-roofed house, surrounded by lush, undulating countryside, not far from Vire. Caen (Ouistreham) is 45 minutes' drive. It is in good condition, but needs interior redecoration, a new bathroom and wc. There is a large living room and fitted kitchen, with three bedrooms, plus loft and wine cellar. The UK agent is Sinclair Overseas Property, The Business Centre, PO Box 492, Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire (0525 375319).

CHERYL TAYLOR

● Details of properties are supplied by British and French estate agents. Bear in mind that habitable does not necessarily mean comfortable.

Adventure into innocence

FRANCE

FIRST IMPRESSIONS:
JILL FREUD



"I don't think I was very imaginative, and I hadn't understood from school geography that everything would be strange. I hadn't conceived that things could be so shatteringly differ-

ent." Not yet as cynical and sated with tourists as the south is today, La Napaulle took Jill and her friends to its bosom. "I talked a lot of terrible French and loved it. All that month people like cameramen and actresses and my sister and her husband from Egypt kept turning up. The landlady thought we were mad, sleeping all over the place."

The food, after the post-war dreariness and nursery recidivism of the British diet, was another revelation. "I remember thinking bouillabaisse was just wonderful. And drinking wine, which you had all the time and which was entirely new to me. I was just in love with it all."

"People were terribly nice to me, always. I suppose I was very naive, and it never occurred to me that anyone might disapprove of us all in that house. It's the effect of living in a loving family; you expect people to be kind to you. I remember a whole crowd of us going up to Venice in the Alpes-Maritimes and having lunch

at a great long table outside a café. I and a young cameraman wanted to go to the loo — I didn't know the word so I think I said I wanted a "chambre de toilette". The waiter looked a bit surprised and went away, then after a quarter of an hour he came back and we were solemnly taken up to a bedroom where they'd made up a double bed for us. I don't know quite what they expected of the English, in the middle of lunch."

Jill Raymond came home, worked, married, and travelled again as a wife and mother. It was not the same. "The awful French stopped, because Clay (Clement Freud) was so very good at French I didn't dare open my mouth for years. So I lost it. Actually, until I was about 55 I had this secret pipe dream that I was going to chuck everything and go and be an *au pair* and learn French properly. After five children of my own, I realised I had better give up that pipe dream. But it is the most beautiful language I have ever heard. At the moment I am trying to learn Portuguese, and whenever I search for a word up comes French again."

LIBBY PURVES

Test your knowledge of Paris and the Parisians in today's competition

Win a short break in Paris

The Times in association with T.A.T. European Airlines and Copthorne Hotels, is giving readers the chance to win one of five luxury two night breaks in Paris. The winners of today's competition and their partners will be flown by T.A.T. European Airlines, to Paris. In Paris they will stay for two nights at the new four star Hotel Copthorne Charles de Gaulle in Roissy. Today's winners will also receive two complimentary tickets to visit the Chateau de Chantilly.

To enter telephone our competition line on 0891 700 149 before midnight tonight. You will be asked to give your answers to the questions

(right), leave your name, address and telephone number. Calls cost 36p per minute at cheap rate and 48p per minute at all other times. The winners will be selected at random from all correct entries received by midnight tonight. The winner's names will be published in *The Times* next week.

● Conditions of entry: Employees (and their relatives) of *The Times* Newspapers Ltd, T.A.T. Copthorne Hotels or their agents are ineligible for entry. The Editor's decision is final. No correspondence can be entered into. *The Times* competition rules apply — available on request.

THE QUESTIONS

1. Who designed the glass pyramid that now forms the main entrance to the Louvre?
2. Name the cemetery where Balzac, Chopin, Oscar Wilde and Jim Morrison are buried.
3. Where in Paris is Napoleon's tomb?

Tuesday's answers are:
1. Louis Blériot, 2. A station, 3. The Bourne, La Défense, 8th arrondissement (any of these three was accepted).

Wednesday's answers are:
1. Prison du Temple and then Conciergerie, 2. Font Neuf, 3. Ile de la Cité

Monday's winners: Mr R.A. Cox, London; Mrs M.A. Lawrence, Hastings; Mr D. Hardy, Gravesend; Mrs L. Hunt, Bristol; Mrs J.E. Wilson, Oxford. Tuesday's Mr S.J. Cooper, London; Mr R.J.L. Watson, Haleshead; Mr L.E. Parkes, Birmingham; Mrs E. Farrell, Worktop; Mr M.A. Watson, Woking. Wednesday's Mrs R. Bryant, Leeds; Mr J. Leslie, Merseyside; Mr R. Bard, London; Ms A. Nicholson, Bucks; Mr M. Row, Weston-super-Mare

TAT EUROPEAN AIRLINES

Art that spans the centuries

FRANCE

FESTIVAL FRANCE:
SULLY

Set against the magnificent medieval backdrop of the chateau of Sully-sur-Loire, the Festival International de Sully opens tomorrow and runs until July 19, providing audiences with a programme of more than 20 events.

One hundred and forty kilometres south of Paris and 45km east of Orleans, the picturesque 14th-century chateau on the banks of the Loire provides an apt setting for a programme which spans four centuries. Rosalind Plover, the soprano, opens the festival with extracts from operas by Verdi, Rossini and Puccini. The first weekend also features the young French cellist Christophe Coin, accompanied by the Camerata Academica of the Salzburg Mozarteum under Sandor Vegh, and soloists from the Berlin Philharmonic playing Bach, Beethoven and Mozart.

The second weekend includes *Swan Lake* danced by the Moscow Classical Ballet on June 28, choreographed by Marius Petipa, and on June 27 a concert by French flautist Jean-Pierre Rampal.

The Academy of St Martin-in-the-Fields and the choir of

St John's College, Cambridge lend a British note to the third weekend, when the remarkable Russian pianist Elisabeth Leonskaja will also give a recital of works by Schubert and Chopin on July 4.

The weekend of July 10 boasts a performance by the Ballet Theatre of St Petersburg of two ballets by leading contemporary choreographer Boris Eifman.

Baroque is celebrated once again on July 17 when Britain's Gabrieli Consort Choir and Players will perform in the magnificent Cathédrale Sainte-Croix in Orléans.

The festival concludes with Ray Charles and his orchestra at the chateau on July 19.

SUSAN BELL

● For information and reservations contact: Festival de Sully, BP 58-45600 Sully-sur-Loire (010 33 38362946).

Free return trip to France

THE exclusive Passport to France travel offers continue with *The Times* giving you the chance to take a car with family or friends to France free. Readers sailing to France with Sealink Stena Line ferries before August 31, 1992 can

get a free ticket for a return cross-Channel trip from September 14 to December 17, 1992.

The offer is available on the Dover-Calais, Southampton-Cherbourg and Newhaven-Dieppe routes and gives you the freedom to do as you like, relaxing in the Dordogne, lying on a beach or sampling the local produce. To qualify for our exclusive Sealink offer, readers of *The Times* are invited to book and pay for an all-in car standard return at the brochure price for travel before August 31. The all-in car standard return fare entitles up to five persons (including the driver) to take any length of car by Sealink for a minimum seven-day stay.

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After completing the first journey, readers should attach to the application form the counterfoil of the first ticket and ten different Passport to France Sealink tokens from *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* between June 14 and June 27. Your free ticket must be used on the same route as your first journey.

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Napoleon in Cherbourg

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Medieval backdrop: the chateau of Sully-sur-Loire



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Wreck of British supremacy

BBC1

- 6.00 Ceefax (95242) 6.30 BBC Breakfast News (42066987)
9.05 Perfect Strangers. American comedy series (1) (6230890) 9.30 Today's Gourmet. Jacques Piquet prepares mushroom-stuffed pancakes followed by veal chops with mushrooms, corn and pepper sauce, ending with fruit nut cups (62727)
10.00 News, regional news and weather (6088451) 10.05 Playdays (s) (4145884) 10.25 Tales of Asop (s) 10.35 Daffy Duck Double Bill (s) (7427567) 10.50 News, regional news and weather (9643695)
10.55 Cricket. Tony Lewis introduces live coverage of the opening session of the second day's play in the second Test between England and Pakistan at Lord's. Includes news at 12.00 (s) (98737155) 12.55 Regional News and weather (6083364)
1.00 One O'Clock News. (Ceefax) Weather (21548) 1.30 Neighbours. (Ceefax) (s) (5966987)
1.50 Cricket and Racing. Further coverage of the second day's play in the second Test at Lord's, and racing from the final day of the Royal Ascot meeting featuring live coverage of the 2.30, 3.05 and 3.45 races. The 4.20 race is covered by BBC2 (s) (79508600)
3.55 A Bear Behind (s) (4721432) 4.05 Fantastic Max (s) (6597364)
4.15 The All New Popeye Show (s) (2717548) 4.35 The True Story of Spit Magazine. Episode one of an eight-part children's drama serial from Australia (s) (Ceefax) (4352074)
5.00 Newsround (6697971) 5.10 Troublemakers. Episode three of a six-part drama (s) (Ceefax) (9306074)
5.35 Neighbours (s) (Ceefax) (s) (146141). Northern Ireland: Inside Ulster
6.00 Six O'Clock News with Peter Sissons and Moira Stuart. (Ceefax) Weather (432)
6.30 Regional News Magazines (884). Northern Ireland: Neighbours
7.00 Wogan. Terry's guests include Roger Moore. Music is provided by De'Nea. (Ceefax) (s) (177258)
7.35 Harry and the Hendersons. American comedy series about a family who befriend a monster animal after accidentally wounding it on a camping holiday. (Ceefax) (s) (986797)
8.00 Birds of a Feather. Another repeat episode of the Laurence Marks and Maurice Gran comedy starring Pauline Quirke and Linda Robson as prison widows. With Lesley Joseph as their obnoxious neighbour. (Ceefax) (s) (5971)
8.30 Joke in the Park. (Ceefax) (s) (717258) 8.45 The Cuckoo. Hosts the show where two teams try to "out-joke" each other. (Ceefax) (s) (7906)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Maryn Lewis. (Ceefax) Regional news and weather (4600)



Revenge is sweet: Cropper, Oxenberg and Goodall (9.30pm)

- 9.30 Ring of Scorpions. The first of a four-part Australian drama starring Caroline Goodall, Linda Cropper and Christopher Oxenberg as friends who plot revenge on the charmer who betrayed them (540971)
10.20 Film: The Couch Trip (1988) starring Dan Ackroyd, Charles Grodin and Walter Matthau. Well-worn comedy about a mental patient on the run who assumes the identity of his psychiatrist and causes chaos when he becomes a radio phone-in "agony uncle". Directed by Michael Ritchie. (Ceefax) (174180). Northern Ireland: Up to the Port 10.50 Film: From the Hip
11.55 Film: The Masque of the Red Death (1964).
● CHOICE: Roger Corman's reputation as a stylish director of low-budget genre films reached its peak with his series of Edgar Allan Poe adaptations starring Vincent Price. The Masque of the Red Death is the format at its best, a horror film of intelligence, imagination and visual polish whose shocks are not simply tacked on for effect. The film was Corman's first to be made in Britain and had the benefit of outstanding camerawork from the future director, Nicolas Roeg. The use of colour and composition is consistently striking and always in the service of the story. Employing his usual mixture of villainy and black humour, Price plays a 12th-century Italian nobleman who practises devil worship and is finally punished for his evil. The supporting cast includes Hazel Court and a young Jane Asher. (Ceefax) (375161). Northern Ireland 12.35am-1.55 Film: Born in East LA
1.25am Weather (3939469)

BBC2

- 6.45 Open University: The Victorian High Church (9115345). Ends at 7.10. 8.00 Breakfast News (1141890)
8.15 Westminster. A round-up of business from both Houses (6570426)
9.00 Daytime on 2: Topics — money 9.15 Teaching today 9.45 Watch: seabirds 10.05 Short circuit 10.35 Greek language and people 11.00 Schools' programmes reviewed 11.30 Japanese language and people 12.00 Teaching today 12.30 Scene: twins 1.00 Darwin and evolution 1.20 Brum 1.30 The Adventures of Spot 1.35 Crystal Tipps and Alastair 1.40 Tales from Europe — Finland
2.00 News and weather (5039822) followed by Words and Pictures. Reading for five to seven-year-olds (44481154) 2.15 Weekend Outlook (s) (41881203)
2.20 Cricket, Racing and Tennis. Further coverage of the second day's play at Lord's. The commentators are Richie Benaud, Ray Illingworth, Geoffrey Boycott, Jack Bannister and Asif Iqbal, from Royal Ascot, the King's Stand Stakes (4.20), with commentary from Peter O'Sullivan, John Hamner and Jimmy Lindsey, and semi-final action in the Pilkington Glass Ladies' championship from Devonshire Park, Eastbourne. The commentators are John Barrett, Virginia Wade and Juliet Tait. Includes news and weather at 3.00 and 3.40 (9495616)
6.00 Film: Squadron (1964) starring Cliff Robertson, George Chakiris and Harry Anderson. Standard second world war heroics about a squadron assigned to destroy a heavily fortified German stronghold in Norway. Ron Goodwin's rousing theme music helped to make it popular. Directed by Walter Grauman
8.00 Public Eye. A report on neo-natal problems focuses on three sets of parents at Leeds General Infirmary and the medical staff who have to make the life and death decisions. Last in the series (3513)
8.30 Gardeners' World. Pippa Greenwood asks the Water Services Association whether gardeners are getting a raw deal from hosepipe bans when only 3 per cent of household water is used outside. There are also suggested gifts for Father's Day (5448)
9.00 Bottom. A repeat of the smutty comedy starring Rik Mayall and Adrian Edmondson as flat-mates desperately trying to date women. (Ceefax) (s) (2242)



Poetic justice: Jackie Kay and the Rossiter case (9.30pm)

- 9.30 Words on Film: Twice Through the Heart.
● CHOICE: Tonight's personal documentary in verse is presented by Jackie Kay and recalls the case of Elsie Amelia Rossiter, a woman of 63 given a life sentence for murdering her husband. Rossiter had suffered years of physical, mental and sexual abuse before she took out a knife and stabbed him but this cut little ice in court. In any case she was loath to disparage her husband's name. Kay's commentary, backed up by comment from lawyers, is an angry condemnation of legal systems which fail to take provocation into account and works against women. Kay uses her poetic imagination to suggest the thoughts of Rossiter, which are intercut with the story words of the judge. The argument is formidable and was eventually accepted by the appeal court, which reduced the charge to manslaughter and set Rossiter free. (Ceefax) (s) (76971)
10.00 Have I Got News For You? Irreverent news quiz hosted by Angus Deayton. This week the regular team captains, Ian Haplow and Paul Merton, are joined by comedian John Sessions and newsreader Trevor McDonald (s) (45513)
10.10 Newsnight with Frannie Stonor (102155)
11.15 Scrutiny. Iain MacWhirter reviews the week's work in Parliament (155548) Wales: Wales in Westminster 11.45 Weather (89513)
11.50 International Golf. Steve Rider presents highlights from the first round of the US Open at Pebble Beach. The commentators are Peter Alliss, Bruce Critchley and Dave Marr (862890)
12.35am Royal Ascot. A review of the racing on the final day of the festival meeting (5095010)
12.55 Cricket. Highlights of the second day's play in the second Test at Lord's between England and Pakistan (3784933). Ends at 1.30

ITV

- 6.00 TV-am (1677567)
9.25 Cross Wits. Crossword quiz game show hosted by Tom O'Connor (6236074) 9.55 Thames News (1883971)
10.00 Out of This World. American comedy series about a teenage girl with a mixed alien/human parentage (s) (87616)
10.30 This Morning. Magazine series (48129616)
12.10 Rainbow. Early learning series (s) (7266957)
12.30 Weather (6238019) 1.10 Thames News (62887258)
1.20 Home and Away (s) Australian family drama serial. (Oracle) (18942703) 1.50 A Country Practice (s) (68911258)
2.20 Highway to Heaven. Jonathan, the apprentice angel, and Mark his human assistant, help a dedicated doctor who is in danger of losing his health and his home. Starring Michael Landon (1094616)
3.15 ITN News headlines (5991567) 3.20 Thames News headlines (9981180) 3.25 The Young Doctors (3705513)
3.55 The Gingerbread Man. Animation. (Oracle) (s) (2279722)
4.10 8 & 8
● CHOICE: Taking a break from Inspector Morse, Kevin Whately plays an nice young architect who tangles with a very nasty property developer (Ian McEwan) in a pulsating children's drama from Lee Pressman and Grant Cathro. Although basically a tale of heroes and villains, it is a neatly characterised drama which has Whately as an impractical wonder being looked after by a more than capable daughter (Alexandra Milman). Indeed when Whately tells the Mr Nasty that his new holiday flats are tasteless and tacky and is given his cards, it is young Alex who hits on the idea of turning their house into a bed and breakfast hotel. With the help of a travelling busker (Katy Murphy) they make a promising start, but the property man wants the land and will stop at nothing to get it. All is beautifully set up for next week's conclusion (1110703)
5.10 Home and Away (s) (Oracle) (4641190)
5.40 Early Evening News with John Weekes. (Oracle) (475548)
5.55 Crime Monthly Preview (241161)
6.00 6 O'Clock Live. The first of a new series presented by Frank Bough, Joanna Sheldon and Jeni Barnett. Includes a live visit to Covent Garden for the finals of the City Sounds competition (282074)
6.55 The Day. Richard and Gordon compete in a race from Clapham Common to County Circus between commuters travelling by tube, train, taxi, bus and car (479797)
7.00 Through the Keyhole presented by David Frost. Lloyd Grossman provides the clues to the identities of celebrity owners whose homes are invaded by the cameras. On the panel this week are Willie Rushton, Patrice Coudwell and Alan Coren (4819)



Tying the knot: Amanda Barrie and Johnny Briggs (7.30pm)

- 7.30 Coronation Street. Will Alma (Amanda Barrie) and Mike (Johnny Briggs) tie the knot? (Oracle) (364)
8.00 International Athletics. Live coverage of the Great Britain v Kenya contest from Edinburgh's Meadowbank stadium (5635)
9.00 Crime Monthly. Paul Ross with unsolved cases which the police in the south-east would like the viewing public to help them with. Plus a look at the policing of London's concerts and festivals (2971)
10.00 News at Ten with Julia Somerville and Carol Barnes. (Oracle) (961180) 10.35 LWT News and weather (138987)
10.40 Film: Triumphs of a Man Called Blah (1983) starring Richard Harris and Michael Beck. Third and weakest in the Blah series in which the now ageing English leader of a Sioux tribe defends his people from encroaching white settlers and gold rush miners. Directed by John Hough (33926242)
12.15am Sledge Hammer. Spoof American detective series (97407)
12.45 Out of Limits. Sporting feats of endurance (5212643)
1.05 The James Whale Radio Show. Phone-in chat show with the rude and controversial host (s) (763440)
2.10 American Gladiators. Tests of strength and ingenuity (1616594)
3.05 Cinema Attractions presented by Charlie Tuna (7550710)
3.35 Raw Power. Rock music videos (8723407)
4.35 Burke's Law (b/w). Gene Barry stars in the vintage Beverly Hills police drama (6473662)
5.30 ITN Morning News with Tim Neilson (97827). Ends at 6.00

CHANNEL 4

- 6.00 The Channel Four Daily (1675109)
9.25 Schools (84892616)
12.00 The Parliament Programme presented by Anne Perkins (35180)
12.30 Business Daily. News and analysis from the world's financial centres (54703)
1.00 Sesame Street. Early learning series (59258)
2.00 I Love Lucy (b/w). Vintage comedy starring Lucille Ball (740819)
2.35 Film: Ring of Spies (1963). b/w starring Bernard Lee and William Sylvester. Espionage thriller about a disgraced British diplomat drawn into a communist spy ring. Directed by Robert Tronson (11288548)
4.10 The Three Stooges in Calling All Cars (b/w) (2701987)
4.30 Fifteen to One. Fast-moving general knowledge quiz (277)
5.00 Female Parts: Just Thirteen. A group of 13-year-old girls discuss adolescence (s). (Teletext) (4432)
6.00 Blossom. Comedy series starring Mayim Bialik as a 14-year-old girl living in an otherwise all-male Los Angeles household (242)
6.30 Happy Days. Nostalgic American high school comedy set in 1950s Milwaukee. (Teletext) (722)
7.00 Channel 4 News with Jon Snow and Zeinab Badawi. (Teletext) Weather (300364) 7.50 First Reaction. Apprentice prophet George Weiss makes some predictions about this year's summer solstice (413426)
8.00 Brookside. Soap set in a suburban Merseyside close. (Teletext) (s) (1109)
8.30 The Music Game hosted by Tony Slattery. The guests are Steve Wright, Nicola McAuliffe and Chris Warren-Green (s) (879172)
8.55 International Athletics TSB Challenge continued from ITV. Great Britain v Kenya from the Meadowbank Stadium, Edinburgh (8113068)
10.00 Roseanne. Blue collar comedy starring Roseanne Arnold and John Goodman. (Teletext) (s) (43109)
10.30 Clive Anderson Talks Back. Conversation and comedy with Germaine Greer and Sir Peter Hall (s) (106971)



Topical views: David Baddiel and Michael Gove (11.10pm)

- 11.10 A Stab in the Back. A satirical look at the week's news. With David Baddiel, Tracey MacLeod and Michael Gove (s) (247109)
11.40 Film: The Postman Always Rings Twice (1946). The Postman Always Rings Twice. A tale of treachery and murder had already been filmed twice (in France and Italy, curiously enough) before MGM took it up as a vehicle for Lana Turner and created a memorable example of 1940s film noir. But this is not a film of dark city streets and menacing shadows. The blackness lies in the moral tone rather than the photography which is bright, hard and cold, while Turner, with deliberate irony, is often dressed in white. The focus of the film is a shabby roadside diner where Turner falls hopelessly for drifter John Garfield and draws him into a plot to kill her elderly husband (Cecil Kellaway). The narrative drives the plotters remorselessly to their fate, helped along by a couple of ironical twists and neat touches from the director Tay Garnett. Look out particularly for Turner's lipstick (96791890)
1.45 The Twilight Zone: Nervous Man in a Four-Dollar Room (b/w). A tale of the supernatural (7881933). Ends at 2.10

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SATellite

- SKY ONE**
● Via the Astra and Marquillo satellites.
6.00am The D1 Kitz Show (1967277) 8.40am Play-Along (5980703) 9.30am The Pyramid Game (14100) 10.00am Let's Make a Deal (32180) 10.30am The Bold and the Beautiful (75722) 11.00am The Young and the Restless (50074) 12.00am St. Elsewhere (97432) 1.00pm E Street (54390) 1.30pm The Game Show (54390) 2.00pm The Game Show (54390) 2.30pm The Game Show (54390) 3.00pm The Game Show (54390) 3.30pm The Game Show (54390) 4.00pm The Game Show (54390) 4.30pm The Game Show (54390) 5.00pm The Game Show (54390) 5.30pm The Game Show (54390) 6.00pm The Game Show (54390) 6.30pm The Game Show (54390) 7.00pm The Game Show (54390) 7.30pm The Game Show (54390) 8.00pm The Game Show (54390) 8.30pm The Game Show (54390) 9.00pm The Game Show (54390) 9.30pm The Game Show (54390) 10.00pm The Game Show (54390) 10.30pm The Game Show (54390) 11.00pm The Game Show (54390) 11.30pm The Game Show (54390) 12.00am The Game Show (54390) 12.30am The Game Show (54390) 1.00am The Game Show (54390) 1.30am The Game Show (54390) 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Provisions push Brent Walker to deeper loss

By ANGELA MACKAY

BRENT Walker, the public houses and betting group, totted up a negative net worth of £455.8 million last year after the company provided £217 million for exceptional and extraordinary items to try and cover likely contingencies on the long road to recovery.

Lord Kindersley, who became chairman after George Walker, the company's founder, stepped down last year, announced his retirement yesterday. He and Ken Scobie, the chief executive, guided the debt-laden group through its negotiations with banks and bondholders owed £1.5 billion.

Lord Kindersley said the group hoped to add 1,000 public houses to Pubmaster by the end of the year, taking its total properties to 3,000. William Hill, he added, was still suffering from the economic downturn, although trading in the first six months this year was better than that last year.

Lord Kindersley said about £136 million of the exceptional items related to the fall in value of development land and properties such as Puerto Sherry in Spain, Brighton Marina and the Londonderry Hotel. The company believes, however, that this is an accounting adjustment rather than a permanent fall in value because the banks and bondholders, which have taken shares in return for part of the group's debt, are giving Brent Walker time to make orderly asset sales over the next two years.

The company must still sell its other businesses, and although progress has been made, Britain's depressed economy made the task difficult, Lord Kindersley said.

The company's restructuring, which started on March 30, focuses on the growth of the William Hill betting shops and the Pubmaster hotels chain, while remaining interests will be sold.

Brent Walker's group operating profit of £48.3 million was just under half of that in 1990 even though turnover

was only 10 per cent lower at £1.58 billion. Interest charges of £235 million (£116 million), as well as the exceptional and extraordinary items, pushed the group to a £410 million loss (£358 million loss).

Brent Walker's finances crumbled under burgeoning debt, falling property values and a widespread belief that George Walker paid too much for William Hill. The cost of refinancing the group is almost £40 million so far, and Lord Kindersley said the group was still paying fees related to the restructuring and bank supervision of the company's progress.

Mr Scobie said the group hoped to add 1,000 public houses to Pubmaster by the end of the year, taking its total properties to 3,000. William Hill, he added, was still suffering from the economic downturn, although trading in the first six months this year was better than that last year.

Lord Kindersley said about £136 million of the exceptional items related to the fall in value of development land and properties such as Puerto Sherry in Spain, Brighton Marina and the Londonderry Hotel. The company believes, however, that this is an accounting adjustment rather than a permanent fall in value because the banks and bondholders, which have taken shares in return for part of the group's debt, are giving Brent Walker time to make orderly asset sales over the next two years.

The company must still sell its other businesses, and although progress has been made, Britain's depressed economy made the task difficult, Lord Kindersley said.

The company's restructuring, which started on March 30, focuses on the growth of the William Hill betting shops and the Pubmaster hotels chain, while remaining interests will be sold.

Brent Walker's group operating profit of £48.3 million was just under half of that in 1990 even though turnover



Stepping up: John Bellak, chairman of Severn Trent, has declared a dividend rise

Severn Trent turns on the profits tap

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT, FINANCIAL EDITOR

SEVERN Trent increased pre-tax profits by 6.4 per cent to £265 million in the year to end March, despite a £10 million loss of profit from the effect of recession on measured supplies and disappointing results from Biffa, the solid waste management company it bought at a cost of £214 million last year.

The dividend rises 10 per cent to 19.3p, from earnings up 5.7 per cent to 68.2p per share but total boardroom pay fell slightly. Management did not meet all performance targets for a full incentive bonus.

Biffa contributed £11 million, equivalent to £12.5 million for a full year, compared with £16 million net of property profits in the preceding year. This reflects the recession, not least in the building trade, as well as changes in accounting treatments. Financing costs were about £25 million. Severn Trent no longer expects Biffa to meet its financing costs this year, but John Bellak, the chairman, said he was happy with the purchase because Biffa was meant to be a long-term investment in building a solid waste division.

In the main utility business, turnover increased by 14 per cent to £692 million, reflecting a 1 per cent drop in metered volume, but kept the rise in operating costs down to 9 per cent. The group spent almost £600 million on capital spending, up 50 per cent, but spending has now peaked. Roderick Paul, the chief executive, said the utility was slightly ahead of its planned capital spending targets and had achieved more for the same money than budgeted.

Commissioning of the £107 million Carsington reservoir has left the utility with adequate water supplies to avoid shortages. The group does not anticipate asking for any increase in price limits to accommodate extra spending imposed since privatisation.

Mr Bellak said the utility business was in a strong position because it had the highest profits in the sector but the lowest water prices and the lowest combined water and sewage charges except for Thames. It has also had good reports from regulators on water purity, effluent compli-

ance and improvements in customer service.

Mr Bellak said it was unlikely that general metering, as a means of payment after the system based on rateable values ends, could justify the extra costs in terms of any savings of expenditure on water resources. "Personally, I think the economics of metering do not work," he said.

He noted that the Carsington scheme had added 10 per cent to capacity and that an early study by Severn Trent suggested that reducing consumption 10 per cent by metering could cost about £600 million in its area, though that figure could be subject to wide variations.

Comment, page 23

FKI holds final as profit slips

By PHILIP PANGALOS

FKI, the electrical products and engineering group, is maintaining its final dividend despite a 23.9 per cent decline in pre-tax profits to £30.5 million in the year to end-March. The group, which depends on United Kingdom and North American markets for 87 per cent of its business, saw turnover dip 4.8 per cent to £739 million as disposals, closures and recession took their toll.

Jeff Whalley, chairman, says the reorganisation programme is largely complete and any remaining losses will be eliminated this year. About £5 million was spent on rationalisation last year and a further £3 million is likely this year. Net losses on the sale of businesses led to an £8.99 million extraordinary charge, although net borrowings are down to £60 million (£84 million). Assets sales of a further £40 million are planned.

Earnings fell to 4.88p (6.71p) a share, but the final dividend is maintained at 1.3p, giving 2.3p (3.3p) for the year. Mr Whalley expects FKI's earnings to more than double over the next few years, although dividend is unlikely to match this rate of growth. The shares eased 2p to 77p.

Tempos, page 22

Borrowing surge peters out

By COLIN NARBROUGH
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

OFFICIAL money supply figures issued yesterday made clear that the post-election surge in borrowing in April petered out last month, suggesting that the economy is only edging its way forward sluggishly. The provisional Bank of England data showed a rise of £3 billion in the bank and building society lending element of M4, the broad money aggregate. This was sharply lower than the surprise £5.1 billion rise in April.

The May figure was, however, above the £2.3 billion the City had expected. The rise in bank lending is expected to stabilise at about £2 billion in the months ahead.

The officially targeted narrow money measure, M0, largely made up of banknotes and coins, only grew by a seasonally adjusted 0.1 per cent in May, about half the City's forecast, compared with an 0.4 per cent rise in April. This increased the annual rate from 2.3 to 2.5 per cent.

The money data reflected the sharp, but short-lived rise in consumer confidence after the Conservative win.

The underlying rise in lending by the leading banks to the private sector was £2.2 billion in May (£2.6 billion in April), according to the British Bankers' Association.

Widest US trade gap since November 1990

AMERICA'S trade gap widened by 24.8 per cent in April to \$6.97 billion, the biggest shortfall since November 1990. Exports dropped by 1.9 per cent, while imports grew by 1.6 per cent to reach the highest monthly level for 18 months. The politically sensitive deficit with Japan widened by 5.6 per cent to \$5.6 billion. The surplus with western Europe slumped 73 per cent to \$611 million.

Other data were more encouraging. New claims for unemployment benefit edged down to 407,000 during the first week in June, from 409,000 a week earlier. Financial difficulties arising from the recession still dog Americans, however. The percentage of consumers behind on loan repayments in the first quarter jumped from 2.67 per cent to 2.75 per cent, the highest level for two-and-a-half years.

Chloride suffers slide

CHLORIDE, the restructured electronics group that sold its industrial batteries business to Hawker Siddeley in March last year, yesterday turned in pre-tax profits of £588,000 (£5 million) for the year to end-March. Again there is no dividend. Losses per share increased to 1.3p (0.9p), but the shares rose 0.25p to 11.75p. Sales fell to £110 million (£216 million). Chloride said it expected to sell its share of a sodium sulphur battery development partnership with RWE, the German power generator. Chloride does not expect any significant gain or loss from the sale.

Shorts to cut 400 jobs

SHORTS, the aerospace company based in Belfast, is to shed almost 400 jobs by the end of the year. The redundancies were blamed on recession and the imminent end to production of the Sherpa cargo plane. Shorts employs 8,200 people in Northern Ireland, 1,000 more than when it was privatised in 1989. A spokeswoman said it was hoped that most of the losses would involve people taking early retirement or voluntary redundancy. Seasonally-adjusted unemployment in Northern Ireland rose by 500 to 105,000, 14.4 per cent of the workforce, in May.

Delta buys BTR stake

DELTA, an engineering and electrical cable group, is paying BTR, the industrial conglomerate, £37 million for its 36 per cent interest in the Delta Crompton Cables joint venture. DCC was formed in 1988 by the merger of Delta's cable business with that of Hawker Siddeley. Delta owning 64 per cent and Hawker Siddeley the remainder. The buyout follows BTR's takeover of Hawker Siddeley. Pre-tax profits attributable to BTR's stake in DCC were £2.7 million in 1991. The net value of assets being acquired is £34.2 million.

GEI maintains payout

GEI International, the packaging and processing machinery group, is maintaining the annual dividend at 7.32p a share, paying an unchanged final of 4.85p, despite suffering a slump in pre-tax profits to £3.11 million (£5.57 million) in the year to end-March. Second half profits rose to £2.6 million (£2.46 million) but failed to fully offset the setback experienced in the first six months. Earnings fell from 9.7p a share to 6.7p. Operating profits were £3.89 million (£5.69 million) on turnover virtually unchanged at £77.9 million.

Shanks battles hard

"SHANKS & McEwan, the waste disposal group, says it is increasing market share in difficult conditions. Profit margins, however, remain static in "an extremely hostile competitive environment". In the six months to the end of March, profits rose from £10.4 million before tax to £16.73 million, helped by the first full contribution from Rechem, acquired in January 1991. Earnings, however, were virtually unchanged at 6.4p a share, against 6.3p. The interim rises to 2.24p (2.04p).

Lookers' profit dives

PROFITS were halved at Lookers, a motor distributor, in the six months to March 31. The pre-tax figure was £615,000, compared with £1.2 million last time. However, the slide is less bleak if £13,000 of property profits are stripped out of the 1990-1 earnings. After-tax profits of £406,000 were not enough to pay the £585,000 preference dividend bill, leaving the unchanged interim dividend of 2p on the ordinary shares uncovered. Gearing is down from 115 to 107 per cent.

Goldsmiths in the red

GOLDSMITHS Group, the jewellery retailer, crashed from a pre-tax profit of £1.9 million to a loss of £1.3 million in the year to February 29. The company made a trading profit of £1 million, but interest charges of £1.9 million drove it into the red. Turnover was £440.6 million (£414.4 million). There is a loss per share of 6.08p (5.67p) profit. A final dividend of 0.3p (1.5p) a share makes 1.8p (3p) for the year. Job losses and provisions against branch disposals cost £310,000.

Bibby raises hostile bid

J BIBBY, the industrial and agricultural conglomerate, has raised its hostile bid for Finanzauto by just over 15 per cent. It is offering 1,500 pesetas (£8.16) a share, Pta200 more than the original offer. Its valuation of Finanzauto, which has a monopoly in Spain for Caterpillar earth movers, has risen from £71.4 million to £86.2 million. Improving the terms has not won over the Finanzauto board. The revised offer, due to close on July 7, requires approval by the Spanish authorities.

Severn Trent Preliminary Results

For the year ended 31 March 1992

"We have achieved the highest investment programme in the industry the lowest average charge for water and again been the most profitable of the ten privatised water and sewerage companies"

John Bellak, Chairman. 18 June 1992

- Secure water resources
- Highest profit, highest investment, lowest water charge
- Waste management and other non-regulated business developing well

	1992	1991	Increase
TURNOVER	£822m	£627m	31%
OPERATING PROFIT	£261m	£197m	32%
PROFIT BEFORE TAX	£265m	£249m	6.4%
EARNINGS PER SHARE	68.2p	64.5p	5.7%
TOTAL DIVIDEND PER SHARE	19.3p	17.55p	10%

The 1992 results are unaudited. A copy of the Annual Report and Accounts will be posted to shareholders in mid July 1992 and thereafter may be obtained from: The Director of Corporate Communications, Severn Trent plc, 2297 Coventry Road, Birmingham B36 3PU



Power firm leaps to £94m despite recession

Manweb sparkles in first full year

By OUR CITY STAFF

MANWEB, the regional electricity company, raised pre-tax profits from £58.9 million to £94.7 million in the year to end March, its first full year as a public company.

Analysts attributed the rise to a spin-off from the regulatory regime imposed on the distribution companies and cost cuts. Around 2,000 workers have gone in 18 months from Manweb, leaving 4,500. More, but not so radical efficiencies, will be sought in the current year.

Shareholders receive a rise in the final dividend from 11.20p to 12.80p making a total of 18.25p for the year. The shares fell 2p to 342p.

Sales rose 0.6 per cent to £834.6 million despite reduced industrial consumption, caused by recession and



Roberts optimism

the loss of some supply business. John Roberts, Manweb chief executive, said: "The recession has affected the region but appears not to be

deepening further and there are some limited signs of optimism. Manweb has not suffered any major impact from recent economic problems and is well positioned to benefit from an upturn in economic activity."

Manweb also has a strong balance sheet. Net borrowings have been cut to £56.4 million or just 13.3 per cent of shareholders funds.

The supply business, however, suffered a loss of £5.3 million. It is low margin and high turnover and suffered from minor fluctuations in the purchase price of electricity. Appliance retailing and electrical contracting suffered from recession. Contracting managed an increase in sales of 13 per cent but margins were squeezed because of intense competition for large contracts. Distribution profits

were £106.3 million, 83.3 per cent up on last year. The total sale of distribution units decreased slightly to 17.4 million. Domestic and commercial units distributed rose by 2.4 per cent and 2.5 per cent respectively with industrial units falling by 3.5 per cent.

Bryan Weston, the chairman, said: "We have had a very encouraging year and have achieved the level of profits required to fund the investment in the network and other parts of the business needed to improve customer service. By focusing on our businesses we have secured reductions in operating costs of well over £16 million which has enabled us to keep price rises in 1992 well below the rate of inflation."

Tempos, page 22

Closure costs of £22m at LIG force shares down

By JON ASHWORTH

SHARES in London International Group, the consumer products and services company that makes Durex condoms, plunged 34p to 220p yesterday after news of £22.5 million in closure costs shocked the City.

Pre-tax profits fell from £39.3 million to £16.9 million in the year to end-March. Analysts were surprised that the cost of closing factories in the UK and America was taken above the line as an exceptional item. They were also surprised by an unexpected slump in returns from photocopiers which saw trading profits dive 53 per cent from £12.5 million to £5.9 million.

LIG shed 350 jobs at Chingford, north London, and 300 at Llanelli, South Wales, after a decision to transfer primary rubber glove production to Malaysia. The closures cost £13.4 million. Shutdowns in America cost £3.7 million and there was £4.8 million in reorganisation costs. The company pulled out of wholesale photocopiers in Spain at a cost of £600,000. LIG had intended to treat

the closure costs as an extraordinary item. But in the light of proposals by the Accounting Standards Board to severely restrict such practices, LIG has limited extraordinary items to those arising from a fundamental change in core business.

Alan Woltz, chairman, said LIG was trying to beat its rivals by reacting quickly to the ASB proposals. Photocopying, which includes developing films in many branches of Boots the chemist, had fallen sharply in January and February, too late to alert the City. Sales of condoms did well, particularly in America.

Profits before exceptional items were unchanged at £39.4 million. Restated to account for the change in policy, they slip from £17.4 million to £16.9 million. Borrowings have increased from £60 million to £107 million.

Turnover increased by 7.8 per cent to £393.1 million. Earnings per share after exceptional items were 6.34p compared with a restated figure of 6.56p. An unchanged 6.25p final dividend makes a 9.45p (9.25p) total.



Top of the range: Ronald Miller, the chairman, models Dawson clothes at Calton Hill in Edinburgh

Dawson cuts debt to weave a 15% advance in profits

By RODNEY HOBSON

DEBT reduction has helped Dawson International, the textiles group, to post a 15.3 per cent improvement in pre-tax profits in the year to end-March.

The interest bill dropped from £6.8 million to £5.5 million and, with net borrowings of £23.9 million (£51.7 million) at year-end, gearing was more than halved from 29.6 per cent to 13.4 per cent.

Turnover advanced 6.6 per cent to £415 million as the recession affected markets, while operating profit was 8.2 per cent higher at £33.6 million. Pre-tax profits were £30.1 million (£26.1 million). The dividend is maintained at 9p. Pre-tax profits were also helped by a £700,000 surplus over book value from property damaged in a fire and a £1.4 million income in royalty payments for the use by other manufacturers of the Pringle and Ballantine labels. Royalty payments are likely to be a growing source of income.

Ronald Miller, the chair-

man, said order books were up on a year ago. But he added: "Further improvement depends on the return of consumer confidence, which I believe will be hesitant and gradual."

Dawson makes clothing and textiles for home furnishings. Its brands include Pringles of Scotland, Ballantine, Cashmere, Duofold and Morgan. The company says it has sorted out the quality problems with the customers' raw material that had held back profitability, while significant investment had been made in testing techniques.

More than three-quarters of Dawson's sales are overseas, and annual exports of £90 million put Dawson among Britain's top 100 exporters. The company employs 12,000 people at more than 80 locations, mainly in Britain and America.

Mr Miller predicted that trading in the 1990s "was going to be different and more difficult" than in the 1980s.

THE TIMES FRIDAY JUNE 19 1992

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

US trade gap November 1990

The gap widened by 24.8 per cent in the highest shortfall since November 1987, to £1.9 billion, while imports rose to the highest monthly level for 18 months. The surplus with Japan widened to £1.1 billion. The most encouraging news came when imports from the US fell 1.1 per cent from £4.1 billion to £4.0 billion. The deficit with the rest of the world rose 2.7 per cent to £1.9 billion.

de suffers slide

Restructured electronics group Hawker Siddeley has announced a 15 per cent drop in pre-tax profits of £5.8 million to £4.9 million. Again, the year-on-year drop was 15 per cent. Sales fell to £1.75 billion from £1.9 billion. The group is expected to lose £10 million in the next quarter, mainly from the development partnership with IBM.

to cut 400 jobs

Space company based in Belfast, the end of the year. The reduction in the number of jobs in the company is expected to be 400. A spokeswoman said it was hoped that the company would be able to maintain its current level of activity in the Northern Ireland region.

buys BTR stake

Meeting and electrical cable group, the trial consideration of £1 million for the BTR stake. The company is expected to acquire the BTR stake in the next few months. The acquisition is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

maintains payout

The packaging and processing unit, the annual dividend of 7.32p. The company is expected to maintain its current dividend level for the next few years. The company is also expected to continue its investment in research and development.

is battles hard

The waste disposal group, the company is expected to continue its investment in research and development. The company is also expected to continue its investment in research and development.

rs' profit dives

The profit of £1.1 million, the company is expected to continue its investment in research and development. The company is also expected to continue its investment in research and development.

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Airbus may link with McDonnell Douglas

By PHILIP ROBINSON

AIRBUS Industrie may link with McDonnell Douglas, the American aircraft manufacturer, to build the new generation of 600 to 800-passenger super-jumbo jets. Jean Pierson, Airbus's managing director, said in New York that Airbus Industrie, which is a consortium of Britain, Spain, France and Germany, was in contact with possible partners.

He said the consortium was investigating partnerships, mainly for its jumbo jet, but was open to other joint ventures. Mr Pierson, in a speech to industry experts, said that manufacturers of airliners "face ever-increasing complexities and challenges in designing, funding and developing the new aircraft that are in the early state of concept or simply dreams of engineers. Airbus is exploring, sounding out, talking with new potential partners wherever they may be. And why not include the United States?"

He declined to answer when asked if McDonnell Douglas was a potential partner, although he said that Airbus and McDonnell had had talks in the 1980s about an alliance, but that no deal was struck.

McDonnell Douglas announced on Monday that there would be a delay of almost a year in the start of its programme to build its 500-passenger MD-12 because it lacks even a single order for the aircraft.

Publisher falls on redundancy charges

By PHILIP PANGALOS

PORTSMOUTH & Sunderland Newspapers is raising its final dividend to 5.87p (5.64p), giving a total of 8.6p (8.24p) a share for the year, despite a 16.8 per cent fall in full year profits.

Exceptional redundancy charges and a fall in advertising revenue pushed pre-tax profits at the publishing, printing and retailing group down to £4.39 million in the year to end-March (£5.28 million).

Group turnover, boosted by last year's acquisition of Northern Press Group, rose to £96.5 million (£85.9 million) with increases in advertising and contract revenue. However, like-for-like advertising revenue fell 4 per cent across the group, with the South worst-affected by an 8 per cent decline, although the North-east increased 6 per cent.

A tight control on costs helped to offset the difficult trading conditions, with trading profits ahead 20.4 per cent to £5.93 million. But redundancy costs from reorganisation designed to improve efficiency resulted in an exceptional charge of £1.39 million. Trading profits for publishing and printing rose 22 per cent to £4.98 million and retailing profits were up 11 per cent to £950,000.

There was an extraordinary gain of £1.52 million, mainly linked to the sale of properties and investments. Earnings slip to 24.2p (30.2p) a share.

BR to test for drug and alcohol abuse

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH Rail is to conduct tests for drugs and alcohol abuse throughout its 138,000 workforce. A sample survey programme, being drawn up by personnel and medical officers, is intended to show the extent to which white collar, as well as train staff, suffer from the effects of the night before.

A BR spokesman said: "We believe the incidence of drug or alcohol problems is much lower in the railway industry than in many other industries, but we want to have proof. We are certainly considering making tests more widespread."

The initiative will go well beyond legal requirements and may open the door to similar tests by other employers. The Transport and Works Act 1992 makes operation of any transport equipment while under the influence of drugs or alcohol a criminal offence. It was introduced in the wake of London's Cannon Street rail crash, in which traces of cannabis were found in the blood of the train driver when he was tested three days after the accident. Since August, BR, Britain's biggest

transport operator, has required all applicants for safety-related jobs, such as train driving or track maintenance, to provide a urine sample.

The introduction of company-wide testing, however, will put station workers and clerical staff under the spotlight for the first time. A spokesman said BR already encouraged staff with a problem to tell their managers, who would refer them to company medical officers for help. Staff who admitted a problem could return to work once BR was confident they no longer posed a threat to safety, he added. The company had also mounted an awareness campaign on the side-effects of prescription drugs.

Gareth Hadley, BR's employee relations manager, said: "Those who choose not to seek help but are discovered through testing cannot expect much sympathy from us."

According to a sample survey by Personnel Today, 6 per cent of large companies already test for drugs, and a further 4 per cent plan to introduce screening. Meanwhile, BR's drive to reduce long working hours, goes on.

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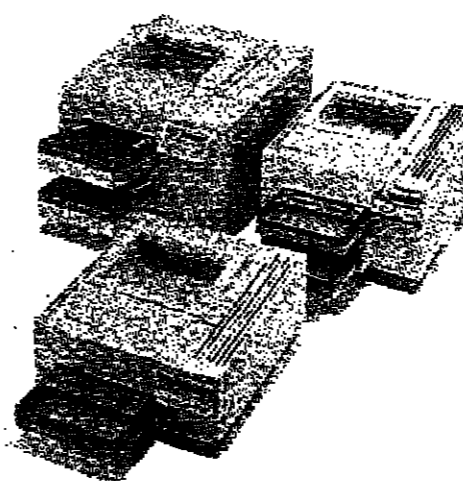
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Compromise may not help Lloyd's

Litigation has been the central factor in Lloyd's attempts to help names ruined by disproportionate losses in the bad years. The council had little hope of devising a scheme that would satisfy all those who have already resorted to the law courts, especially members of the names liberation front tendency, and little hope of setting up a package acceptable to other members if the threat of litigation was not lifted. David Coleridge was therefore left to announce yesterday something more like a Lloyd's social security net to cover past losses. The hardships committee, which has dismayed many insiders as well as the afflicted with its hard approach, is to take a more understanding line. As a sop to a universal complaint, the professionals will be asked for a whip-round to finance this, but discussions appear to be at too early a stage to say how much might be raised, probably because grander plans have only just been turned down.

If Lloyd's can contain the assault of the disaffected by treating each name individually on the basis of hardship, it might be able to bridge the gap to the proposed future regime, under which the market as a whole will cover an individual's losses above 80 per cent of premium limit. This is more name-friendly than the original proposal of the Rowland report, though the adoption of a four-year cumulative loss as the trigger for help is something of a two-edged sword. Since acceptance of risk is intrinsic to becoming a name at Lloyd's, this should encourage new members to fill the capacity of those retiring, other things being equal, and enjoy the benefits of the much-improved underwriting prospects.

As so often in such plans, however, other things are not equal. Legal action paid in the Outwaite case. Whatever the virtues of the Lloyd's modest dual approach, therefore, it will only harden the determination of the litigants, unless Sir David Walker's report on the worst-hit excess of loss syndicates encourages some speedy settlement. Otherwise, Lloyd's faces an intensified flood of bad publicity from the courts at a time when professional errors and omissions insurance, which is vital to names until the new personal loss limits come in, is hard to come by. That may well continue to damage Lloyd's business abroad as well as its allure to new names.

Measured view

John Bellak, forthright chairman of Severn Trent, was one of the earliest advocates of water metering and has promoted it to customers. His severe doubts over the economics of metering as a universal system for charging households in the next century should therefore carry added weight. Ofwat's Ian Byatt, a meter enthusiast, calculates that meters would add 14 per cent gross to average combined water and sewerage bills, mainly from the cost of digging up the roads. His argument has been, however, that the net cost would be much less and could even be zero, because of the saving of capital spending on increasing water resources. According to Mr Bellak, however, the cost of increasing capacity by 10 per cent may be only a sixth of the cost of reducing demand by the same amount through metering.

Even more tellingly, water suppliers could not rely in advance on cutting demand and will therefore have to go ahead with their resource plans anyway, since they have an overriding obligation to supply. This will apply a fortiori in drier areas of the South East, where supplies are more stretched and metering is most superficially attractive. Metering is moving high on the list of bright ideas from regulators that are not cost effective for customers, who would have to pay more for less water. There are surely cheaper ways to save rivers.

GPA suffers institutional engine failure halfway down the runway

The withdrawal of the aircraft leasing firm's planned share issue underlines the dangers of pre-floatation hype, argues Martin Waller

Those Japanese investors who packed GPA Group's institutional presentations, leaving standing room only, had clearly mistaken them for Tokyo's notoriously overcrowded tube system. Wall Street brokers who booked out the airline leasing group's New York roadshows had doubtless confused their invitations with tickets to the latest hot show on Broadway.

This would seem to be the only rational explanation for the divergence between the hype for the world-class Irish company, the promoters of which assured London investors that interest in the shares was at fever pitch in the world's two biggest securities markets, and the sad reality. Yesterday, the \$3.5 billion floatation nose-dived into the tarmac.

This was, after all, a share issue that had actually been increased by \$50 million through the addition of 5 million shares, because of supposedly strong support from overseas institutions. That support appears to have evaporated, if indeed it was ever there, and the company's claims that this was entirely due to the weakness of world stock markets have a hollow ring.

The failure of the world's biggest aircraft leasing group and its advisers to sell shares in the group, at price multiples comparing favourably with other companies in the transport sector that lacked its enviable record, has implications extending way beyond GPA's financing needs. GPA's is the third significant international floatation in a week to founder in advance, following on from 3i, the venture capital group, and Del Monte, the Polly Peck International fresh fruit division.

3i blamed the lack of recovery from recession and the many other cash-raising exercises this year for yet another delay on its long road to the market. Del Monte was scuppered by a banana price war. The failure of GPA to get off the ground is less easily blamed on external factors, although market instability clearly played a part. It must cast some doubt on the forthcoming share issue by Wellcome, the pharmaceutical group, which shares many characteristics with GPA, apart from employing the same public relations adviser. Wellcome is a far better known and understood company than GPA; both, however, are employing international tender offers aimed at markets around the world, using a mechanism that is as yet not much liked or trusted in London.

Under such offers, investors are invited to tender for the shares at prices within given bounds, in GPA's case \$10 to \$12.50. The price is then set according to the offers received, but considerable flexibility is awarded



Cockpit dispute: Tony Ryan, chairman, was probably among directors who said the time was not right

to the advisers to the float in setting it and in deciding where the shares eventually go. Advisers to Wellcome, indeed, are going one step further in leaving sufficient leeway to increase the indicated size of the issue substantially if demand is stronger than expected.

British investors are more used to straightforward share issues such as those employed in many privatisations, when the price is set beforehand and potential shareholders know just how much they are bidding and how many shares are to be in issue. This requires a fair lapse of time between the investor agreeing to pay the money and the shares starting trading, and in rising markets this can mean the issuer losing some of the potential proceeds of sale, if those shares appreciate in value during the period of the offer.

Tender offers minimise this risk, because the price is set much closer to the point at which shares start trading. Equally, they protect the subscribing investor from a general fall in markets. They enable the issuer to tune the price of the shares finely so that it is, theoretically, as close to their worth in the market as possible. They are, coincidentally, tend to require higher advisers' fees than more conventional share issues. Advisers to GPA, indeed, were only last week

insisting that the shares would not be priced too tightly, in the interests of ensuring a wide international spread of holdings. Such reassurance, although welcome to potential investors, only emphasises the strong hand those advisers hold in controlling the issue. By the same token, the withdrawal will bring heavy loss of face to Nomura, for which GPA was a significant international equity-issuing exercise.

So much for the mechanics. The GPA floatation was always going to be a difficult one and was marred by public squabbles between various insiders whose interests pulled in different directions.

A significant force in the GPA boardroom, probably including Tony Ryan, the founder, chairman and biggest individual shareholder, whose stake could have been worth \$250 million if the float had gone ahead, felt this was not the right time to sell shares in any company reliant on the battered aircraft industry. Several of GPA's customers are in financial difficulty, if not outright bankruptcy; bad debts and the number of unused aircraft operated by GPA have been rising and leasing rates falling.

The prospectus, therefore, was hedged around with health warnings

and caveats over the world slowdown in aviation and consequent over-supply of aircraft. The attempt at floatation was forced on GPA by existing shareholders, in particular those who came on board in a 1986 private issue: these were offered a public market for their shares within five years. Also keen on a swift exit were two cash-strapped airlines, Aer Lingus and Air Canada, which held more than 10 per cent of GPA each, offering significant profits if the shares can be sold.

Interestingly, another long-time investor chose to sell ahead of the floatation, on terms that were not revealed but were presumably not quite as good as those being promised. That investor was Hanson, known for a shrewd reading of market sentiment. Chalk one up for Lord Hanson.

That original five-year deadline was extended by a year, as the existing shareholders came to accept that 1991 was not the time for a company linked to the Gulf-struck airline industry to go to the market. GPA and its advisers also managed a partial lock-in, after difficult negotiations, thus preventing an immediate rush for the exits that would have undermined the price. The big holders were allowed to sell up to 20 per cent of their shares; in return, a

group speaking for 86 per cent of the equity were either pledged not to sell before next year or had said they were long-term holders.

The floatation was needed this year for another compelling reason. GPA has, since its inception almost two decades ago, funded a heavy capital spending programme by a variety of ingenious and innovative cash-raising exercises without recourse to a full stock market quotation.

But the hard times in the banking and airline industries have combined with the need to gear up for the expected sharp upturn by the end of the decade, to create a looming funding gap. GPA is committed to buy aircraft worth \$11.9 billion by the year 2000 and has options for another \$9.1 billion-worth.

Operating income over the past three years has climbed from \$205 million to \$262 million. Capital spending has tended to run at about four times the available cash flow. One analyst's estimate for the current year is for gross cash flow of \$350 million and capital spending in excess of \$2 billion.

That gap would not have been closed by the share issue, which was to raise a maximum of \$690 million. GPA would need further sources of capital for aircraft purchases, such as the unusual \$522 million securitisation of aircraft leases completed only last week by Citibank to back the purchase of 14 aircraft. A second such issue of a similar size is now planned.

Further ahead, a listing on the three main world markets would have been used to provide fresh funds by means of further share or convertible loan issues. Clearly, these would have been possible only if the initial floatation had gone well; the existence of large numbers of investors with burnt fingers would have counted against the success of such further issues. GPA had to get this one right.

The withdrawal of the issue strongly suggests that what tenders there were would have been right at the bottom of the indicated \$10 to \$12.50 range. Even if enough investors had been found to take the shares at this level, such a lukewarm response would have suggested no real chance of profits in the aftermarket and a pedestrian performance for the shares thereafter, undermined by the threat of further heavy selling from the original shareholders once the lock-in ended next summer.

The need to get it right this time or walk away was tacitly accepted yesterday by Maurice Foley, the GPA chief executive, who conceded: "The low level of US institutional participation was just not adequate for an offer of this type. In our view, it would be foolish to proceed with an offer in circumstances which are adverse to our interests and those of our shareholders."

Mr Ryan says he will return to the runway for another attempt as soon as possible. He is entitled to be optimistic, but advisers who have found the past few months trying can expect the second attempt to be even more of a strain. The market has a long memory for mistakes.

FRIDAY JUNE 19 1992

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PANY NEWS IN BRIEF

Last time's total dividend of 1.5p. Turnover jumped to £123.9m. Company said the current year had started well.

Turnover rose to £112.3m from £108.5m. Profit before tax was £11.7m. Company said second half earnings remain strong.

Turnover rose 1.2% to £12.3m. Profit before tax was £1.1m. Company said second half earnings remain strong.

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MAJOR CHANGES

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THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Meal ticket for Archer

JEFFREY Archer, millionaire author of best-selling novels such as *Not a Penny More*, *Not a Penny Less*, clearly takes such titles seriously. In Monday's edition of the *Evening Standard*, Jak, its long-time cartoonist, drew a picture of the Savoy Grill with a number of trumpeters in attendance at its entrance. The caption read: "Why can't Lord Archer enter the Grill like everybody else?" The Savoy Hotel, which already boasts one of the largest collections of Jak originals in London, telephoned the cartoonist almost as soon as the first edition had hit the streets on Monday morning in order to buy the original but found it had been picked to the post. Archer, who happened to be lunching at a *deux* in the Grill that day, had already bought it. After learning of the Savoy's disappointment, Archer telephoned the Grill yesterday and graciously offered to let it have the cartoon instead, using the excuse that "it doesn't go with my decor". His one condition was that they must reimburse him the £400 he had paid. Somewhat aghast at this high price, since, as such a regular customer, the hotel normally negotiates a special price with Jak, it finally agreed to a counter-trade. Meals to the value of, which, at about £50 a head, should give Archer eight solo lunches.

House hunting

PETER de Savary, the erstwhile property tycoon who is said to be under financial pres-



"They gave me this treasure map of Liechtenstein"

tween London and his stables at Manton, near Marlborough, a location which would also be conveniently close to Ludgrove, Berkshire, Prince William's old prep school, which is where Sangster hopes to send his two youngest sons.

UNITED Airlines is nothing if not exhaustive in its pursuit of business customers but its navigational abilities seem somewhat suspect. It has just sent one of its Frequent Flyer cards to someone who has never used the airline. It was addressed to Westbourne Grove, London, W11, Greece.

Polish speak

WHEN Marek Michaelski, English-speaking editor-in-chief of *Businessman*, Poland's leading business magazine, came to London at the invitation of the CBI on a one month on-the-job study trip financed by the British government's Know-How Fund, he hardly expected to find himself working alongside one of his fellow countrymen. Upon his arrival at the CBI he was, however, welcomed by London-born Michael Dembinski, managing editor of *CBI News*, both of whose parents are Polish. The two journalists then discovered that their magazines were not without similarities. Michaelski has also admitted that he has learned a lot from his UK counterpart, but Dembinski's colleagues on the *CBI News* are mystified as to what since their bi-lingual boss has been conducting all business with Michaelski in Polish.

CAROL LEONARD

BUSINESS LETTERS

Europe holds key to future energy

From Mr C. Gillibrand
Sir, I could not agree more with Professor Robinson (June 17) that regulation of privatised monopolies is a disastrous means of creating commercial dynamism in the energy sectors.

However, there is a proper role for government which has been often neglected during the years of Conservative rule: it is her duty not just to create free and competitive markets but also to sustain them, protecting them from economic pressures which may be driving them to a situation where one of the players in the market enjoys monopoly dominance.

The problem with a further break-up of the electricity generating industry and the putative fragmentation of the coal industry on privatisation is that the economies of scale will be minimised and research and development on energy technology, already weakened, will suffer a mortal blow. The likely outcome will be the creation of regional monopolies in the electricity generating industry into which the transmission and distribution businesses will also be amalgamated. Those remaining

Customer is the focus of BT's service

From the Group Managing Director, BT
Sir, In his comprehensive piece on BT's global strategy (June 18), Mark Newman misinterprets remarks I made at a conference last year.

The theme of my speech was that success for a service company like BT can only come from putting our customers at the forefront of everything we do, whether those customers are residential, small businesses or multinational companies. A global

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OR INDICES

Abbey Natl	3,700	Cms Vls	801	Lloyds Bk	1,600	Ryl Bk Scot	1,100	New York (midday)		Brussels:		Period	Open	High	Low	Close	Volume	Exchange index compared with 1985 was up at \$3.1 (day's range 92.9-93.1).			
Anglian W	1,000	Cms Unit	84	M&S Curr	1,000	M&S Curr	1,000	Deu Jones	3278.93 (-8.83)	General	5787.59 (-63.62)	Jun 92	2572.0	2572.0	2552.0	2560.0	13610				
Anglian W	1,000	Courmolds	136	MEPC	1,000	Scot & N	1,400	Scot & N	401.34 (-0.92)	Paris: CAC	518.48 (-6.58)	Sep 92	2610.0	2613.0	2586.0	2591.0	8032				
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Asiatic Fdn	1,000	Exp China C	340	Marles Spr	3,200	Scot Power	2,100	Scot Power		Nikkei Av P	16045.56 (-400.24)	Dec 92	95.06	95.06	95.02	95.03	4396				
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B&S	1,000	Exp China C	340	Marles Spr	3,200	Scot Power	2,100	Scot Power		FT A00-Share	1238.10 (-17.09)	Sep 92	95.86	95.86	95.86	95.86	15270				
B&S	1,000	Exp China C	340	Marles Spr	3,200	Scot Power	2,100	Scot Power		FT A00-Share	1238.10 (-17.09)	Sep 92	95.86	95.86	95.86	95.86	15270				
B&S	1,000	Exp China C	340	Marles Spr	3,200	Scot Power	2,100	Scot Power		FT A00-Share	1238.10 (-17.09)	Sep 92	95.86	95.86	95.86	95.86	15270				
B&S	1,000	Exp China C	340	Marles Spr	3,200	Scot Power	2,100	Scot Power		FT A00-Share	1238.10 (-17.09)	Sep 92	95.86	95.86	95.86	95.86	15270				
B&S	1,000	Exp China C	340	Marles Spr	3,200	Scot Power	2,100	Scot Power		FT A00-Share	1238.10 (-17.09)	Sep 92	95.86	95.86	95.86	95.86	15270				
B&S	1,000	Exp China C	340	Marles Spr	3,200	Scot Power	2,100	Scot Power		FT A00-Share	1238.10 (-17.09)	Sep 92	95.86	95.86	95.86	95.86	15270				
B&S	1,000	Exp China C	340	Marles Spr	3,200	Scot Power	2,100	Scot Power		FT A00-Share	1238.10 (-17.09)	Sep 92	95.86	95.86	95.86	95.86	15270				
B&S	1,000	Exp China C	340	Marles Spr	3,200	Scot Power	2,100	Scot Power		FT A00-Share	1238.10 (-17.09)	Sep 92	95.86	95.86	95.86	95.86	15270				
B&S	1,000	Exp China C	340	Marles Spr	3,200	Scot Power	2,100	Scot Power		FT A00-Share	1238.10 (-17.09)	Sep 92	95.86	95.86	95.86	95.86	15270				
B&S	1,000	Exp China C	340	Marles Spr	3,200	Scot Power	2,100	Scot Power		FT A00-Share	1238.10 (-17.09)	Sep 92	95.86	95.86	95.86	95.86	15270				
B&S	1,000	Exp China C	340	Marles Spr	3,200	Scot Power	2,100	Scot Power		FT A00-Share	1238.10 (-17.09)	Sep 92	95.86	95.86	95.86	95.86	15270				
B&S	1,000	Exp China C	340	Marles Spr	3,200	Scot Power	2,100	Scot Power		FT A00-Share	1238.10 (-17.09)	Sep 92	95.86	95.86	95.86	95.86	15270				
B&S	1,000	Exp China C	340	Marles Spr	3,200	Scot Power	2,100	Scot Power		FT A00-Share	1238.10 (-17.09)	Sep 92	95.86	95.86	95.86	95.86	15270				
B&S	1,000	Exp China C	340	Marles Spr	3,200	Scot Power	2,100	Scot Power		FT A00-Share	1238.10 (-17.09)	Sep 92	95.8								

92: Clay Elec. Fusion
& Cells: Aran Energy

LIFFE OPTIONS												COMMODITIES											
Series			Call			Put			Series			Call			Put			Series			Call		
Jan	Feb	Mar	Jan	Feb	Mar	Jan	Feb	Mar	Jan	Feb	Mar	Jan	Feb	Mar	Jan	Feb	Mar	Jan	Feb	Mar	Jan	Feb	Mar
1000	650	100	64	56	17	31	37		BAA	650	40	63	73	17	26	32		Australia dollar	2.4705	2.4735	Australia	11.03-11.05	
7000	6	23	34	34	63	67			650	40	63	73	17	26	32			Bahian dollar	2.4615	2.4625	Belgium (Kcom)	1.02-1.02	
7000	6	23	34	34	63	67			7000	14	34	47	45	50	58			Brazil cruzeiro	5066	47.5002.50	Canada	1.0635-1.068	
7000	6	23	34	34	63	67			7000	14	34	47	45	50	58			Denmark	2.8224-2.8274				
7000	6	23	34	34	63	67			7000	14	34	47	45	50	58			France	2.5202-2.5202				
7000	6	23	34	34	63	67			7000	14	34	47	45	50	58			Germany	1.5670-1.5680				
7000	6	23	34	34	63	67			7000	14	34	47	45	50	58			Hong Kong	1.0000-1.0000				
7000	6	23	34	34	63	67			7000	14	34	47	45	50	58			India rupee	5.52-5.52				
7000	6	23	34	34	63	67			7000	14	34	47	45	50	58			Indonesia	1.0000-1.0000				
7000	6	23	34	34	63	67			7000	14	34	47	45	50	58			Italy	1.187-1.189				
7000	6	23	34	34	63	67			7000	14	34	47	45	50	58			Japan yen	1.0000-1.0000				
7000	6	23	34	34	63	67			7000	14	34	47	45	50	58			Malaysia ringgit	4.50-4.50				
7000	6	23	34	34	63	67			7000	14	34	47	45	50	58			Mexico peso	5.720-5.730				
7000	6	23	34	34	63	67			7000	14	34	47	45	50	58			New Zealand dollar	1.444-1.448				
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7000	6	23	34	34	63	67			7000	14	34	47	45	50	58			United Kingdom	1.0000-1.0000				
7000	6	23	34	34	63	67			7000	14	34	47	45	50	58			USA dollar	1.0000-1.0000				
7000	6	23	34	34	63	67			7000	14	34	47	45	50	58								
7000	6	23	34	34	63	67			7000	14	34	47	45	50	58								

REPORT: Robusta coffee futures finished just above the price of low but the market continued to hold in a fairly narrow band ahead of next week's negotiations at the International Coffee Organisation. Cocoa closed narrowly mixed in quiet trading as the market's downward trend in the past few months may prove to be fairly shortlived. Raw and white sugar futures fell back after running into some profit taking.

LONDON OIL REPORTS (ICIS-LOR)
 London 6.00pm (LOR) In anticipation of an O/N/R meeting on Friday, market levels were nudged higher.

CRUDE OILS (Barrel FOB)
 Brent 15 day (oil) 21.25 +0.30
 Brent 15 day (oil) 21.25 +0.15
 Saudi Arabia (oil) 6.820-6.840

28
27
26

[illegible]

17 C. Meadow
22 Spot 240.0

[illegible]

52 (b)(7)(g) [redacted]
78 C.R. [redacted]

145	140	8	10	10	6	22	34		
146	140	2	15	10	20	12	24		
147	140	2	15	10	20	12	24		
148	140	2	15	10	20	12	24		
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200	140	2	15	10	20	12	24		

18 Jul — 114.3

Portfolio

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the daily prize money. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Claim rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Gain or Loss
1	Seaguard	Industrial	
2	Wespac	Banking	
3	Midland	Water	
4	Anglo	Drugs	
5	Clarendon	Drugs	
6	Midland	Water	
7	Wespac	Banking	
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Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily gains for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in tomorrow's newspaper.

MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT SUN

Mr David Parker, of Wedmore, Mr Michael O'Connell, of Hockley, Mr John Forgy, of Reading, Mr John Green, of Colchester, of BPO 140, shared the Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday. Each receive £2,000.

High Low Company Price Price % Net Yld % P/E

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Kitting out the office at discount prices

By DEREK HARRIS

THE second in a projected chain of stores, aiming to sell top-branded office products at discount prices to smaller businesses, has just opened in Colindale, north west London. Computers, software and office supplies, from chairs to paper clips, are being sold at discounts ranging from about 15 per cent to 70 per cent and averaging about a third off.

The chain trades as The Business Superstore and has two American backers familiar with this style of selling in America.

After a year's research into the needs of small businesses, a chain covering all the main commodities in the United Kingdom is planned. The first store to open was in Park Royal, west London, three months ago. Martin Nielson, the chief executive, this year expects to have several more stores in London and some in the provinces. Birmingham and Manchester are early targets. Expansion into continental Europe is also planned.

The store's philosophy is to keep costs down by a no-frills approach, although help in choosing products like computer software is at hand and products can be tried out in the store. The stores will concentrate on well-known brands in all the office supplies sectors.

Mr Nielson said: "One of the appeals for manufacturers in selling through us is that we offer

stores especially aimed at the smaller business market and thus offer them the chance of securing a bigger slice of that market."

The aim is to allow the small business to be able to buy top brands at the sort of discounts that until now only larger companies could command because of their high volume buying.

Mr Nielson claims that the superstores have no direct competitors because nobody has such a wide range of discounted goods. There are, however, other operations that discount in a particular sector such as stationery supplies.



"Oh yes, I'm going green - it'll make a change from just being in the red"

Smoke tempts the taste buds

By VERONICA HEATH

FOUR years ago, Johnny Cooke-Hurle was farming 220 acres and running a dairy herd on his home farm at Startforth Hall, Teesdale.

The imposition of milk quotas led him to diversify and part with his dairy cows. What set him off on a new tack was that as an enthusiastic fisherman he liked the idea of smoking his catch.

Unable to find anybody to do the smoking, he found an old shed, where, having read about how to smoke trout, he rigged some smoking racks. Now he has a smokehouse in converted dairy buildings that turns out 200 smoked fish or fowl daily. He rents out 180 acres of his land and farms 50 acres himself.

The dairy buildings have been divided, one end being the smoke room and the other an area for preparation and packing. The Rural Development Commission advised on the dairy conversion. A third of the cost was covered by grants from the Ministry of Agriculture and Durham county council.

Mr Cooke-Hurle employs two full-time staff and works seven days a week himself. The whole family is involved in the business and annual turnover has now run into six figures.

The smokehouse is busiest from October until Christmas, but sales are now running strongly throughout the year as the number of customers has increased. The busi-



Teesdale trencherman: Johnny Cooke-Hurle with a selection of his smoked produce

ness now operates under the banner of the Teesdale Trencherman and personal deliveries are made within a 50-mile radius of Startforth, near Barnard Castle.

Public houses, hotels, delicatessen and private customers take regular deliveries and there is a thriving sideline in smoking customers' own food items. Mr Cooke-Hurle said: "We get some odd

things to do - wild boar, goat, conger. One person asked me to try smoking mushrooms, but that was a failure."

Mr Cooke-Hurle is looking for food distributors with their own local outlets so that delivery could be arranged to key central points. He believes that any farm diversification into a business venture demands a 100 per cent commit-

ment to succeed. He says lighting fires in the smokehouse is an art and that he has learned to tell, almost as if by instinct, what is going on in the smokehouse.

He said: "I have reached a stage when my subconscious tells me when something in the smoker is ready. The temperature outside is important as well as the direction of the wind."

Succeeding through recession is the theme of the 1992 franchise of the year award organised by the British Franchise Association. Midland Bank has provided £25,000 sponsorship money with £10,000 in prizes. A £5,000 first prize will go to the winner who demonstrates outstanding achievement based on marketing and financial control during the past 12 months. Two additional prizes of £3,000 and £2,000 will go to runners-up.

Franchisors, whether they belong to the BFA or not, can nominate one franchisee from within their network. There is no entry fee. Completed entries must be submitted by the end of the month for the selection of finalists next month. The six finalists will be interviewed by the panel late next month and the winners will be announced in Birmingham on October 1 to mark the opening of the autumn National Franchise Exhibition at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham.

Information in Welsh for people wanting to set up their own businesses is to be launched in four areas of Wales by Menter a Busnes with funding by Powys TEC and the Welsh Office. The areas are Dyffryn Nantlle, Machynlleth, Carmarthen and Cardiff. Details can be obtained from Hywel Evans (0970) 625561.

EDITOR DEREK HARRIS

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The entire complex has been appraised at £13,400,000.00. The property can be visited on location by arrangement (tel: 0039-30-732717).

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Holmes will emerge a rich loser from the clash of the heavyweights

Holyfield in better shape to win

FROM SRIKUMAR SEN
BOXING CORRESPONDENT
IN LAS VEGAS

LARRY Holmes's chances of becoming the first over-40 to regain the world heavyweight champion by upsetting Evander Holyfield here tonight are slim. After all, how can a former champion, twice retired, aged 42, and now a businessman, stand up to a champion in the peak of his career?

But such is the smell of sanction fees that it even makes boxing's world bodies give validity to a contest undertaken by Holmes simply to make money. Such is the spell of big-time boxing that despite Holmes having very little strength, stamina and sharpness and is close to running on empty, experts balk at giving the former champion no chance at all. Perhaps they feel it is best not to rule out the chances of the old man's "smarts" prevailing over the power of the champion 13 years younger.

Businessmen in this town are more realistic. Robert Walker, the race and sports book director of the Stardust, thinks that the bout is bad for boxing. "It's a sad statement



TALE OF THE TAPE

Holyfield	Age	Holmes
29	42	
15st 10lb	16st 5lb	
6ft 2 1/2in	6ft 3in	
77kg	81kg	
46in	43in	
46in	46in	
17in	15in	
13 1/2in	13in	
22in	20in	
13 1/2in	16in	
17in	17in	
75in	75in	
12 1/2in	13in	
10in	10in	

Holyfield: 27 wins (22 inside the distance), 0 defeats.
Holmes: 54 wins (37 inside the distance), 3 defeats.



around guys like Ali, Frazier and Norton. I have got moves Holyfield has never seen."

Holmes believes that Holyfield will be open to the right counter. "I've seen him in trouble several times against George Foreman and Bert Cooper," Holmes said, "and I am a better fighter than Foreman and a much better fighter than Cooper."

Despite these claims Holmes, who could get off the floor to win in the old days, does not take punches too well any more. The blows from Tyson did him no good at all. Mercer had him in trouble with the first solid blow of the contest.

Holyfield should win inside the distance or on points, but much will depend on how soon Holmes's stamina is spent. If he starts to puff Holyfield will "take him out", but if he gets his second wind Holyfield could have his work cut out and be trailing at the end. I expect a good sharp opening from Holmes, but by the third or fourth round for the old man to be adopting spoiling tactics and looking to survive. It is unlikely that he will stay beyond the sixth.

Sky Sport will be showing the championship contest live.

when we have to go to a guy who has been beaten to death and has to come out of retirement to fight for the heavyweight championship. What does it say for boxing?"

Very little. If Holyfield wins they will say he beat a "bum". If Holmes wins it will totally devalue the heavyweight title. For Holmes was wiped out in four rounds by Mike Tyson.

But Holmes the businessman, having negotiated a good deal — \$7 million for the purse and another \$3 million for "future rights to services" — is enjoying the scene.

The man who reigned for

seven years as world champion and almost beat Rocky Marciano's record of 49 wins in a row, said: "There's nothing happened in the ring that's not happened to me. I've been hit so bad that the air was sent out of my body. I've been knocked down and I've seen people's camera flashes. Holyfield hasn't had all that happen to him. How is he going to react when all that happens to him?"

A misshapen Holmes, a bit like the shape of the pregnant man in the anti-smoking advertisement weighed in at 233lb (16st 9lb), 11lb heavier

than when he beat Ray Mercer, the WBO champion, last February. Holyfield looking in tremendous shape, scaled 210lb (15st).

Holyfield's trainer, George Benton, was delighted with Holmes's weight. Benton doesn't expect the Holmes legs to carry him beyond three or four rounds. He said: "Holmes is going to be playing checkers, but we all know his legs are not what they used to be. Once he's hurt, Holyfield will jump on him." Holmes's reply to that is: "I don't need trainers like George Benton. I've been

HOCKEY

Injuries force changes in Olympic build-up

INTERNATIONAL competition returns today to Milton Keynes, where at Woughton-on-the-Green, the British men and women continue their preparation for the Olympic Games (Sydney Friskin writes).

Over the next three days the men will face Egypt, Spain and Germany in a tournament billed as the Milton Keynes Challenge. The women will play France today and on Sunday.

Injuries have caused late changes in the men's team, with Mayer replacing Kerly and Davis coming in for Bachelor, who has been withdrawn because of a groin strain. Bachelor expects to be fit for the two matches against Spain at Terrassa, the Olympic venue, later this month.

Jackie McWilliams, who has been out through injury, returns to the British women's squad for the matches against France.

ROWING

Henley avoids Olympic fallout

BY MIKE ROSEWELL

FEARS of a smaller than usual Henley Regatta, because of the approaching Olympic Games, were dispelled yesterday when the stewards announced a record entry of 505 crews. The overseas entry of 89 has only once been surpassed. "Quite extraordinary," was how Peter Coni, the regatta chairman, described the numbers. Qualifying races will be required in 11 of the 15 events.

The United States, with 30

crews, provides the largest overseas team. There are four entries from the new Russian federation, and South African rowers return to the event.

Trident, the South African Olympic eight, will be one of seven crews in the Grand, which will also be contested by the German and British lightweight eights who finished first and third in Lucerne last weekend.

An entry of 53 for the Diamond Sculls will be re-

duced to 16 by qualifying races. Rorie Henderson, who has failed to achieve Olympic selection, spearheads the British challenge. Paul Reedy, of Melbourne University, will be hoping to continue Australia's enviable record in this event and Brendan Dolan, Ireland's new lightweight sculler, who reached the Lucerne final, is also on the list.

The new event for junior quads has attracted 18 entries, one of them from Sweden.

Huntingdon completes Gold Cup double

Drum Taps survives attack to take glory

BY RICHARD EVANS, RACING CORRESPONDENT

DRUM Taps defied the breeding pundits and an attempted attack from Arcadian Heights to land the Gold Cup in tremendous style at Royal Ascot yesterday.

The victory provided Lord Huntingdon with a marvellous double in the premier race of the meeting, following his success last year with Indian Queen, and elevated the West Ilsley trainer to the elite of his profession.

As the six runners lined up for the gruelling two-and-a-half mile group one race, the main doubt surrounding Drum Taps was his ability to stay the distance. In the end the much-travelled six-year-

old, partnered by Frankie Detoni, faced a far more serious threat.

Arcadian Heights, who earlier this year nipped off half a finger from the hand of David Loder, assistant trainer to Geoff Wragg, does not like being beaten. And he resorts to violence to make his point.

The equine equivalent of Jaws lunged at Michael Roberts on Luchirovete at Doncaster in March and managed to grab hold of the jockey's weight-cloth for a couple of strides. Yesterday, as the runners bunched up approaching the straight, Arcadian Heights attempted, without success, to nip the quarters of Drum Taps

— or Detoni — as the partnership moved out to challenge.

The incident landed Wragg before the stewards, the trainer having to give an undertaking that Arcadian Heights, the two-length runner-up to Drum Taps, would wear a net muzzle in future races.

Lord Huntingdon, who has a strike rate second only to Henry Cecil, has enjoyed a wonderful meeting following his Royal Hunt Cup triumph with Colour Sergeant. Racing's most public stage has given him the chance to show off his undoubted talents to the full.

Drum Taps will now be prepared for an autumn campaign culminating in another attempt at the Japan Cup, invitation permitting.

"We felt he has got such a relaxed attitude to racing and training that he had a fair chance of staying the trip and that this was his best chance of winning a group one in England," Lord Huntingdon said.

Detoni commented: "When we came round the turn I heard Walter Swinburn [rider of Arcadian Heights] shout and scream. Later he told me his horse was just inches away from nibbling me."

Armarama lost her maiden tag in style by making all the running to land the Ribblesdale Stakes for Clive Britain and Michael Roberts. The key to her success has been hours spent swimming rather than cantering and Britain pinpointed the Irish Oaks as her next target.

Source Of Light was beaten 20 lengths by Peto at Wolverhampton on his last run but made nonsense of that form when accelerating past Wild Fire to win the King George V Stakes for Roger Charlton.

"Wolverhampton had had a lot of rain and Source Of Light loves firm ground. He didn't operate on the soft," the trainer explained.

Niche continues Carnarvon run

BY MICHAEL SEELY

LORD Carnarvon's remarkable Royal Ascot continued yesterday when Lester Piggott drove Niche to a head defeat of Silver Wizard, the 5-4 favourite, in the Norfolk Stakes.

The chairman of Newbury racecourse had also seen his scarlet, blue and white colours carried to victory by Lyric Fantasy in the Queen Mary Stakes on Wednesday.

In his capacity as the Queen's racing manager, he had been responsible for Colour Sergeant, the winner of the Hunt Cup. And Drum Taps, the horse he had owned in partnership with Will Farish III and had sold to a Japanese golf course developer, had now won the Ascot Gold Cup.

Surprisingly, although Silver Wizard had been many punters' banker of the meeting, Piggott, 17 times joint or outright leading Royal Ascot

rider, had been confident beforehand.

"When I said to Lester that we had a good chance of being placed, he replied 'don't you worry, we'll win it,'" Lord Carnarvon said.

Niche was Richard Hannon's fourth winner of the meeting, Shalford having initiated a third-day double with a stunning victory in the Cork and Orrery Stakes. Storming clear under Michael Roberts at halfway, he soon had his race won.

Shalford, who will be owned by David Cook until the end of his racing career, has been sold to stand at Coolmore. More immediately, the July Cup is his objective.

Punters were on good terms with themselves throughout the day and backers ended on a winning note when Richard Hills partnered the 2-1 favourite, Humam, to victory in the Chesham Stakes.

ATHLETICS

Backley learning how to cope as the pressure increases

BY DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

STEVE Backley is good at coping with setbacks. Last August he suffered his first humiliation as the world's leading javelin thrower when he failed to qualify for the world championship final.

It was a fall from a considerable height for the International Amateur Athletic Federation's male world athlete of the year — yet he came back to set a Commonwealth record and a world record in the next four months.

Tonight at the TSB Challenge in Edinburgh, Backley begins a sequence of competitions designed to bring him to a peak in Barcelona. "I am pleased with the way everything is going," he said, adding that he had been throwing as far as ever in training.

More important, after shoulder, leg and Achilles injuries in the past year, he is throwing pain free. A torn leg adductor was at the root of his Tokyo failure but that, he believes, should not have prevented him from reaching the final. Trying not to worsen his injury, he set himself the target of a distance which he thought

would be enough to qualify, but he underestimated what would be needed.

"It was a hard way to learn, but I am 23 and I have won three Olympics and six world championships left, so I can still do a lot of damage," he said. Now that rough-tail javelins have been banned, Backley feels more settled. "There was an element of luck with the rough javelin," Backley said. He, Jan Zelezny and Seppo Raty all set world records with the rough model.



Backley: free of injury

Raty's world record of 96.96 metres was expunged and only smooth javelins permitted for setting records.

Backley did not feel comfortable having the record returned to him because of a rule change, but the "new" record of 89.58 metres, which Backley set 18 months earlier, was short-lived. His 91.46 metres in Auckland in January made him feel the genuine article.

Does that make him the world's best javelin thrower? Not by his reckoning. "To me the best guy is the one who goes out under pressure in the major championships and wins," Backley said. "There is far more credibility to being world or Olympic champion than being a world record holder."

The IAAF yesterday banned Yugoslav athletes from all international competition in keeping with the UN resolutions. Yugoslavia, now consisting of Serbia and Montenegro, was originally barred from international team competition, and the IAAF ban extends that to individual competitors.

YACHTING

Peyron in first by a full day

FROM BARRY PICKTHALL
IN NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

LOIC Peyron, the 32-year-old French yachtsman swept into Newport, Rhode Island, early yesterday, a day ahead of his nearest rivals, to win the Europe 1 singlehanded transatlantic race.

His 60ft Nigel Irens-designed trimaran, Fujicolor, crossed the Breton Tower finish line at 12:35 GMT to post a time of 11 days 1 hour 35 minutes and set an average speed of 10.7 knots for the 3,000-mile crossing. This was the first big solo victory for the Peyron, whose previous best performance had been second place in the 1989-90 Globe Challenge non-stop round-the-world race.

Facing the French press on the dockside, Peyron suggested that it was his experience in that race that gave him the winning edge this time. "Four days ago we ran into the area for icebergs. I've been in the ice before and am not worried by it. The conditions were perfect and I pressed the boat hard, probably harder than everyone else."

It resulted in a record run of 351 miles and during those 24 hours the British-designed trimaran averaged 14.6 knots, opening up a 200-mile lead over her nearest rivals, Paul Vatine, aboard Haute Normandie, and Francis Joyon, sailing another British-designed trimaran, Banque Populaire.

Peyron spent three quarters of the race on deck, capping for short periods in the small cuddy that provide his only shelter on deck. This preoccupation for driving the boat night and day almost made him the race last Saturday.

"The boat developed a leak around the centreboard. The first I knew of the problem was when the boat began to feel sluggish, pounding heavily into the waves. I went below and found more than two tons of water in the main hull," he said. The electric bilge pump failed to work, forcing him to bucket the water out by hand. RESULT: 1. Peyron, 11 days 1 hr 35 min. Other positions yesterday (with miles in Newport): 2. Haute Normandie (P. Vatine), 12 days 3 hr 30 min. 3. Banque Populaire (F. Joyon), 12 days 4 hr 30 min. 4. Puma (J. B. Bouteiller), 12 days 5 hr 30 min. 5. Queen Anne's Bounty (J. B. Bouteiller), 12 days 6 hr 30 min. 6. Discovery (A. W. Thomas), 12 days 7 hr 30 min. 7. G. & J. Morgan Grenville (P. T. T. T.), 12 days 8 hr 30 min.

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FRIDAY JUNE 19 1992

Pakistan's bowlers seize control at Lord's

England slump after making a perfect start

BY ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

LORD'S (first day of five: England won toss): Pakistan, with all first-innings wickets in hand, are 224 runs behind England.

SHORTLY after lunch at Lord's yesterday, England were proceeding with a serenity which suggested the Pakistani bowling held none of the promised terrors. Shortly after tea, the illusion was shattered and this second Cornhill Test adopted a course which will not easily be reversed.

From 123 without loss, England plunged to an inadequate 255 all out. The legacy of a commanding opening stand between two players at the peak of their form was a chaotic collapse, initiated by Wasim Akram but executed with ruthless aggression by Waqar Younis.

This was the real Waqar, not the diffident shadow who represented him at Edgbaston a fortnight ago. In this mood, as many opponents of Surrey last season will testify, he is a match-winner, possibly incomparable in the modern game.

He began his third spell by dismissing Botham, Lewis and Lamb in consecutive overs, each one confounded by his ability to bowl full, fast inswingers. The spell brought Waqar four for 31 and his final analysis of five for 91 nourishes his dream of becoming the first Pakistani to take ten wickets in a Lord's Test.

It was bowling of the highest class to set before a near capacity crowd on a bright but breezy first day. England can take comfort from that. But Graham Gooch, who had

chosen to bat in the hope that a big total would allow his bowlers to exploit suspect bounce later in the game, will still be properly distraught that his copiously laid foundations crumbled so swiftly.

Gooch has such a prolific record at Lord's that he must believe he will make a century every time he walks to the middle here. Alec Stewart is on such a high that he must believe he will make a century wherever and whenever he bats. It looked that way, too, as an opening pairing born, last winter, of anxious compromise reaffirmed its suddenly mature status.

The light was poor early on, and conditions seemed made for bowling but the new ball was squandered. Pakistan held back Waqar, who is more effective with an older ball, but when he was summoned for the 14th over, Gooch instantly dispatched him twice to the cover boundary.

A rare short ball, from Akram, was pulled for four with the satisfying pistol-crack of Gooch's bat and the advent of leg spin was treated with similar disdain. Mushtaq being square-cut imperiously to take Gooch past 50 with his tenth-four.

Gooch resumed after lunch as if his regulation Lord's century was a mere formality. Waqar was pulled for two fours in an over and Akram punched through extra cover off the back foot. Then, as if distressed by an announcement of Essex's innings defeat in Leeds, he went back to a quicker one from Akram and was bowled via an inside edge.

Waqar responded, increasing his speed and looking desperately unlucky to have a leg-before appeal against Stewart rejected. But Hick struck him cleanly through the infield on both sides of the wicket and was looking encouragingly confident until trying to pull Waqar from outside off-stump and spooning a catch to mid-on.

Akram struck again in the ninth over of a persevering spell, slanting the ball across Smith's rigid defensive stroke and having him well caught, low down at third slip. Now, much depended on Stewart but in the last over of the session, with a fifth hundred in six Tests in sight, he drove at Mujtaba without getting to the pitch and was caught by Miandad at extra cover.

The afternoon had thus been taken by Pakistan as conclusively as had the morning by England. The destiny of the evening session was in doubt only for as long as it took Waqar to destroy what remained of England's middle order.

Botham and Lamb were bowled playing loosely and Lewis departed hopping, having been hit on the foot by the trademark Waqar yorker. When DeFreitas steered a now rampant Waqar to second slip, it was left to Mushtaq to mop up a tail which Russell had tried manfully to sustain.

Seven overs remained for England to claw back some lost ground. They had the chance, too, but Botham put down a hot catch at gully when Ramiz slashed at the wayward Malcolm, and the day ended with Pakistan in enviable control.



Hitting the target: Waqar Younis shows delight after dismissing Botham

Waqar the modern master of yorkers

JOHN WOODCOCK

AT lunchtime yesterday, in the second Test match at Lord's, the Pakistanis were very far from grunted. Another slow pitch, of the sort to draw the teeth of their fine fast bowlers; umpires who could be persuaded to give nothing out; England with 108 for no wicket on the board: things could hardly have been worse. The recovery which Pakistan staged was based on cricket of the highest class.

Intikhab Alam, Pakistan's endearing and enduring manager, said after the first Test match at Edgbaston that the series would be "ruined" by the rule, introduced by the International Cricket Council last year, which allows only one bouncer an over at any one batsman.

Imran Khan agrees with him. It is, in truth, an inhibiting and imperfect rule: but just how wide of the mark it was to suggest that it would sabotage the series was shown by yesterday's splendid cricket.

It may well be that the

rule allowing only one bouncer an over will not survive next month's annual meeting of the ICC. West Indies, as you would expect, are strongly opposed to it. But it will not prevent the better side from winning the present series, any more than it prevented West Indies from beating South Africa in Barbados in April, or Australia from beating India in Australia last winter, or England from winning their Test series in New Zealand, or Pakistan fighting back as they did yesterday.

Glad enough to be asked to field, on an overcast though not humid morning, Pakistan made a strangely muted start, and it had nothing to do with this bouncer rule.

They broke through when they did by pitching the ball up, bowling no more than half a dozen short ones all day. Wasim Akram began as though what had been sufficient, since he came

out of plaster, to bowl out Nottinghamshire and Northamptonshire would do now. Against Gooch and Stewart, both playing particularly well, it was nothing like enough.

Wasim never quite got into his stride. But how Waqar did! He, too, began tentatively, as though putting his injured back to the test. His first spell cost 25 runs and brought no alarms. Starting the sixth over of his second spell, and 90 minutes later, he had taken eight for 49. The game needs great fast bowlers, as it needs great batsmen, wherever they come from, and I was worried lest it had lost one.

Then, suddenly, it all came right. First Waqar beat Hick for speed, and then he produced such a succession of yorkers that no one's toes were safe. I was reminded of Frank Tyson in Australia in 1954-55, when he tormented Australia's batsmen with yorkers. It was no disgrace to be bowled out by Tyson then, nor by Waqar now.

Taylor learns nothing from his indecision

FROM DAVID MILLER IN STOCKHOLM

GRAHAM Taylor's reflections on defeat took us back to Alf Ramsey and the World Cup of 1970: England have nothing to learn from Brazil. In football, as in life, the more things change, the more they remain the same.

Would it not be better, Taylor thought out loud, for England to be more true to themselves and play the English way? Ramsey was, in effect, saying the same when he asserted that there was no point in trying to copy Brazil. The fun of the game, as well as the achievements, come from being different, being Latin or Slavic or Anglo-Saxon, or Nordic.

What is worrying about Taylor's question, and therefore about his continuation in charge of England's preparations for the next World Cup, is less a matter of whether he may be right, but that he is asking it. He should have decided upon the answer at the time he started the job.

It is too much to suggest that the Football Association should have asked him his intentions when interviewing him, because it is less likely to have the answer than he. It is like appointing an artistic director to a ballet company: the trustees cannot be exactly sure what they are going to find being created on stage until it happens.

The most fundamental responsibility of any national coach — who, ironically, has no opportunity for coaching — is that he should remove the doubts, at least for the players. Ramsey was like Mrs Thatcher: he always knew, right or wrong, which way he was going. Taylor, in the manner of Don Revie and often Bobby Robson, has given the impression of changing his mind every march, which in a championship means every 48 hours. How can the players hope to respond?

Every manager who embarks upon this almost impossible task means well, none more so than the agreeable former manager of Lincoln City, Watford and Aston Villa.

Unless a national manager wins, and continues winning, he will be regarded, given the nationalistic emotions of those who follow his every move, as unsuccessful. This will now be true of Michel Platini, never mind that his France side won every qualifying match and it is true of Taylor, even though under his direction England have lost only two matches in 24.

Taylor, in my opinion, has



Semi-finals

Sunday: Sweden v Group two runners up (Stockholm, 7.15)
Monday: Group two winners v Denmark (Gothenburg, 7.15)

been continually confused, as were Revie, Ron Greenwood at times, and Robson: confused on the priorities. These are choosing a tactical system-formation, and then selecting the players to fit it, thereafter changing as little as possible.

Taylor, like his predecessors, has oscillated endlessly: two wingers, one winger, none; three up front, sometimes two, occasionally Lineker on his own, and never the same twice running; flat back four or two markers with a sweeper, and anything from five in midfield to, here against Sweden on Wednesday night, only two, Webb and Palmer.

It seemed quite unfair, and unrealistic, to heap the blame on Lineker for the team not being able to hold the ball when it was being hastily cleared by a desperate defence in the second half; the problem, surely, was primarily that the midfield was being swamped, having two wingers and a primarily creative central figure such as Webb.

If the England manager is fortunate enough to have one of Europe's greatest goalscorers, it must be sense when shaping his team to allow for the strengths and weaknesses of such an exceptional forward. Lineker was within a foot or two of increasing England's lead against Sweden on the half-hour, and every statistic suggests England had more chance of scoring with him on the field than with Smith.

It was an inexplicable decision, for many observers, to leave out Steven, one of the steadiest performers in midfield against France. That is now no more than history.

The concern for the next two years is that Taylor — whose remaining two years of contract are unlikely to be terminated — uses the summer break to make positive decisions about how, and with which players, he wants England to perform, in place of the present random regime. Yesterday's newest whim was a need for larger players, nonsense when you think of, say, Alan Ball. I'm not optimistic for managerial improvement.

Lineker's regrets, page 31

Thompson makes his last fling abroad

DALEY Thompson, the world record holder and twice Olympic champion, will make one last effort to compete in his fifth Olympics by contesting a decathlon abroad before the British team for Barcelona is picked a week on Sunday (David Powell writes). He must obtain an Olympic qualifying score of 7,850 points to be selected.

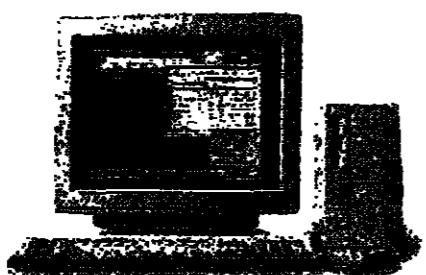
A month ago, Thompson, aged 33, dislocated his left collarbone, damaging ligaments and tendons, in a training fall over a hurdle. Thompson, who was unbeaten between 1978 and 1987, has not completed a

decathlon since the Seoul Olympic Games four years ago, when he was fourth. "By Barcelona I could be in with a chance of a silver medal," Thompson said last month. He thought Dan O'Brien, of the United States, would be too good for him.

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Early starters profit from helpful conditions

FROM MITCHELL PLATT'S GOLF CORRESPONDENT IN MONTEREY

DAVID Feherty made an encouraging start to his first US Open golf championship when he gathered three birdies in his first six holes on the Pebble Beach course here yesterday.

It hoisted him onto the leader-board on a still morning when mist shrouded the Gabilan range of mountains and the championship contenders were able to take advantage of the favourable conditions.

Lanny Wadkins, who won the USPGA championship when it was held on this

course in 1977, had four birdies in his first six holes, and Phil Mickelson, making his debut as a professional, and Raymond Floyd were among others to make good starts.

Feherty has changed his putter for the first time in 12 years, employing a Tad Moore model, as favoured by Severiano Ballesteros, rather than his faithful Bulls-eye, and he two-putted from 45 feet at the 2nd for his first birdie. He went on to hole from seven feet at the 5th and to chip and putt the long 6th.

Ronan Rafferty struggled to find his touch on the greens. He was out in 35, one under par, but he played

much better than his score suggests. He started with a birdie at the 1st, hitting a nine-iron to six feet, and salvaged a par from a bunker at the 2nd, but his putter betrayed him at each of the next three holes.

He hit a huge drive at the 3rd, cutting the corner of the dog-leg, to rest some 60 yards beyond Peter Jacobsen and Tom Lehman, his playing partners, and little more than that from the green, but having pitched to ten feet he missed the putt.

Rafferty had the chance of a birdie from six feet at the 4th. He allowed that one to get away, and at the next he contrived to take three putts

from six feet, missing from two feet, to drop a shot. The Irishman, however, appeared composed, chatting on most holes with Jacobsen, as he put behind him the memory of his last US Open. Then, he exorcised himself after nine holes of the second round, telling his partners that he was going to the lavatory. He forgot to say that it was in Sunningdale.

Rafferty is determined to make an impression in the major championships and he could not have wished for easier conditions when he set out a few minutes before 8am local time, while the seagulls were still searching for breakfast.

This course requires a wind to strike terror into the hearts of the professional, and the benign conditions appeared to give the early starters a distinct advantage over those later, including Nick Faldo, the championship favourite, Ian Woosnam, Steven Richardson, Bernhard Langer, Colin Montgomerie, José-María Olazábal, Howard Clark, Anders Forsbrand and Ballesteros.

Rafferty took advantage at the 6th, splashing out of a bunker to within 18 inches, and at the 7th. This is the hole on the hill which looks over the ocean. Without a wind, the hole is a breeze, and Rafferty became the fifth

player in succession to make a two there when he coaxed the ball in from six feet. But Rafferty gave a shot back at the 9th.

Sandy Lyle enjoyed an adventure at the 2nd, escaping with a par after hitting his second shot into a deep hollow.

The Scot drove into the trees at the 3rd, but he still made a birdie by holing from 18 feet. He was further encouraged by another birdie at the 6th, and kept up the momentum with a third at the 7th.

* 1X